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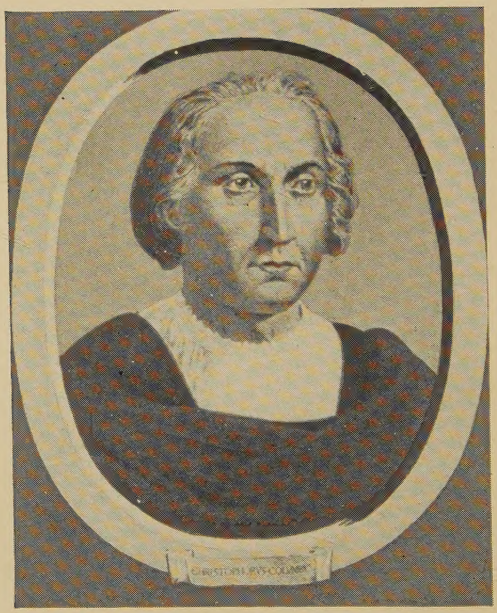

PORTRAIT OF COLUMBUS
From the Marine Museum at Madrid.

THE STORY OF COLUMBUS

BY

N. J. LENNES

AUTHOR OF A SERIES OF BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

AND

PAUL C. PHILLIPS

PROFESSOR OF HISTORY IN THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

64 ILLUSTRATIONS AND MAPS

jB

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FOREWORD

One of the two men who made this book is an historian. It is his business to try to find out what people did a long time ago and to know whether or not the stories told about them are true. He has worked over this book carefully to make sure that everything in it is as nearly true as it can now be made. The other man has a family of boys and girls. In his house there is a big fireplace and in front of it a bearskin rug. In the evening he lies down on this rug and tells these stories to the children. Then he tells them to his dictating machine, the stenographer copies them, and the printer makes them into books. Now he is telling other stories to these boys and girls, and some time they too may be made into books. If they are, you will have a chance to read them if you should want to do so.

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THE STORY OF COLUMBUS

CHAPTER I

Before the First Voyage

1. The Coming of Columbus.—In the early morning of October twelfth, in the year 1492, the Indians living

THE LANDING OF COLUMBUS

on a small island not far from Cuba saw three strange objects out on the ocean. These Indians had never seen any such objects before and did not have the slightest idea what they were. Soon they saw men get off from them into a boat and row toward the shore. When the boat came nearer, the men were seen to have white skins

and to wear the most curious clothes which covered all their bodies except their hands and faces. The Indians had never before seen men with white skins, and they had never seen people wearing such clothes. The Indians themselves were almost naked. These strange white people were Christopher Columbus and his followers, who

MAP OF THE WORLD. THE PARTS KNOWN DEFINITELY TO EUROPEANS AT THE TIME OF COLUMBUS ARE SHADED. DOTTED LINE SHOWS COURSE OF COLUMBUS'S FIRST VOYAGE

had come across the Atlantic Ocean from Europe in three small sailing vessels. No wonder the Indians were surprised, for up to that time not a single white person lived in all of what is now called America.

Why did Columbus go across a wide ocean on a journey as far as from Boston to San Francisco in these little vessels? He must have had good reasons for doing so, because in his small ships the journey was very dangerous. It was not the kind of a sailing trip that people would take for the fun of it. Did Columbus know about America, or was he trying to go to some other land about which he

did know? If you read this book, you will find answers to these questions.

We will now tell the story of Columbus, where he was born, where he got his ships, why he started out over the great ocean, what he was trying to find, and what he really did find.

MAP SHOWING ITALY, FRANCE, SPAIN, PORTUGAL AND THE CITIES OF GENOA, SAVONA, AND PALOS

2. Where Columbus Came From.—At the time of Columbus, nearly all the white people of the world lived in Europe. The parts of the world about which they knew are shown in the shaded portion of the map. We may be sure that there were many people who were curious to know about the lands beyond this area. Some were trying to work along the west coast of Africa, to see how far land extended in that direction. Others had made long journeys overland eastward to India and China, and while there had even learned something about Japan.

Columbus decided to go straight out into the ocean, and the path along which he sailed is shown by the dotted line in the map. Columbus was born in Italy, but it was in Spain that he got his ships and the people who sailed with him. Indeed, he had been in Spain less than ten years when he started on his great journey.

3. The Young Columbus.—It is more interesting to read about places when we know where they are. For this reason we give here a map which shows the countries of Italy, France, Spain, and Portugal. It shows also the cities of Genoa and Savona in Italy and the town of Palos in Spain. These countries and cities will be mentioned again in the story which follows.

It is surprising how little is known about the life of the young Columbus. He was born in Italy and very likely in the city of Genoa. The year of his birth is now generally believed to have been 1446. If this is true, Columbus was forty-six years old when he started on his journey from Spain across the Atlantic. His father was a poor man who made his living by weaving cloth. It is known that Columbus worked with his father, combing wool and weaving, and that people called him a wool comber or weaver as long as he lived in Italy.

We do not know how long Columbus went to school, if indeed he went to school at all, but we do know that in later life he was one of the best educated men of his time. He read and wrote Latin with ease, as well as his own Italian language and also Portuguese and Spanish. He read all important books on geography and travel, and a great many other books that are interesting only to learned people. He was in the habit of writing in the

margins of the books which he read, and several of these with marginal notes in his handwriting are still to be found in libraries of Spain. He was an expert penman and made many beautiful and accurate maps. He knew much about mathematics, astronomy, and the art of sailing.

The people of Genoa were much engaged in trading and their goods were carried in ships that sailed back and forth over the Mediterranean. A large part of this trade came from the eastern end of the Mediterranean, where

MAP SHOWING MEDITERRANEAN OVER WHICH MERCHANTS OF GENOA CARRIED THEIR GOODS TO AND FROM CONSTANTINOPLE AND THE EAST

they got silks, spices and other valuable goods that had been carried overland from the Far East.

There are stories that Columbus went to sea while very young, and that he even took part in some of the wars which were then going on. But whether he went to sea as a mere boy or not, it is certain that he heard many exciting tales from sailors who returned to Genoa. In those days there were many pirates, who attacked trading ships, killed the sailors, and stole the goods. For this reason, sea-going was very exciting and dangerous, and those who came back told thrilling stories to which the

young Columbus must have listened with great interest. We may be sure that the exciting and adventurous life of the sailor had far greater attraction for him than the dull and quiet life of the weaver.

When Columbus was about twenty-seven years of age, he left Italy and went to Portugal.

4. Why Columbus Went to Portugal.—It was no wonder that a young man interested in the sea should go to Portugal. The Portuguese were known as the best seamen in the world and had discovered more new lands than any other people of their time. They had sailed out into the Atlantic, which was then known as the Sea of Darkness, and had discovered all the islands which are shown on the small map. They had also worked their way far down along the western coast of Africa.

MAP SHOWING ISLANDS DISCOVERED BY THE PORTUGUESE

The Azores, Madeiras and Canaries were known to the ancients and rediscovered early in the 14th century. Portuguese colonies were established in the Madeiras about 1418, in the Azores about 1431.

When Columbus was still a boy the Turks conquered the eastern shores of the Mediterranean and destroyed the trade which the people of Genoa had carried on with the East. For this reason many of the sailors and map makers of Genoa had gone to Portugal to serve on her ships and help in her discoveries. Among these men was Bartholomew, a younger brother of Christopher Columbus,

who had gone to Portugal to work as a map maker. It was but natural that Columbus should follow where many of his neighbors had gone before him. Some of them had, no doubt, come back to tell their stories, and we must remember that people who return from strange lands are very likely to make their stories more exciting than the adventures really were. The men who returned from these adventures were looked upon as great and wonderful and Columbus wanted very much to become like them.

5. Columbus in Portugal.—We have just seen that Bartholomew Columbus had gone to Portugal ahead of his older brother, and that he was engaged in making maps. When Christopher Columbus reached Portugal he too began making maps, possibly in partnership with his brother. Portugal was a good place for map makers because at that time stories about new discoveries traveled very slowly, and those who made maps wanted to show the most newly discovered lands, so as to make their maps as complete as possible. In those days maps were made by hand, one by one, and not printed as they are today. For this reason the making of maps was a great deal more of a trade than it is now. It is important to keep in mind that in Portugal, Columbus was always in touch with that spirit of adventure which goes with the sailing into unknown oceans and the search for new lands. As we shall see later, it is likely that he himself took part in some of the voyages of the Portuguese.

Soon after he came to Portugal, Columbus was married to a young lady of good family. They had a son, Diego, who was born a year or two later. If there were other children they died young, because the name of none of

them has come down to us. Columbus said, however, in a letter written after he left Portugal, that he had left his wife and children. We know that he took his son Diego

MAP SHOWING OVERLAND ROUTES TO INDIA

with him, so, according to that letter, there must have been other children.

In these earlier years of his life Columbus took a great deal of interest in geography and in the discoveries which were being made. It is unfortunate that later he seems to have lost this interest in geography itself and that his

thoughts turned more and more to the discovery of gold and other riches.

6. Stories of the Far East.—When Columbus started westward across the Atlantic, he expected to reach the east coast of Asia. Why did he want to go to Asia? For many hundreds of years before the time of Columbus, the people of Italy, and especially of his own city of Genoa, had been carrying on a trade with eastern Asia, bringing the goods overland along the lines which are shown on this map. Columbus had seen the great wealth which the people of Genoa gained by this trade, and he had also seen how their wealth was rapidly being lost after the trade was stopped by the Turks who had conquered the eastern shores of the Mediterranean. He found that the Portuguese were trying to get this trade by sailing around the southern end of Africa. In time he came to believe, however, that by sailing westward he could reach Asia by a shorter route than by going around Africa, and after all it was not certain as yet that it was possible to sail around Africa at all.

Now and then a traveler would go to these eastern countries and come back with the most wonderful stories about the riches he had seen. The stories of the travels of three of these men are marvelous, indeed. Their names are, Marco Polo, Sir John Mandeville, and Nicolo di Conti. Many of their stories were, of course, not true. They told of cities with bridges built of costly stone; they told about more gold and silver and pearls than there really was at that time anywhere in the world. All things, except men, they said, were finer in the East than elsewhere; the trees grew taller, the animals were larger. Only the people were small and weak, and not so brave as in

Europe. They had been fed so well and had lived in a climate where they needed to do so little work that they had become soft and puny.

The people of Europe were anxious to find an easy way to reach these very rich countries where they could trade—and, it must be said, not only trade, but even steal the riches and carry them away. We shall find later in this story that this is precisely what Columbus did with the Indians, and that is what a great many others did for years to come.

People like to tell wonderful stories and they also like to believe them, and so these stories of the riches of the Far East were not only believed, but as they were told from time to time they were improved upon, and the East grew richer and richer as the stories were repeated. It is no wonder then that many people in Italy, Portugal, and Spain were trying to find some direct way to these untold treasures where they might easily make themselves rich. It is difficult for us, who live far from that time and from those places, to understand just how excited they got about it. We know how people now go almost mad when they hear about the finding of gold. Hundreds of thousands rush away from home and from their work, trying to get rich all of a sudden by digging gold. But in those days people could not rush to India as they do now to newly found gold fields. The only way they knew was to sail to the eastern end of the Mediterranean, and then to go overland on a long and difficult journey. But this route had been made impossible by the Turks, who refused to let Christians carry on trade over the lands which they had conquered. There were, too, many stories of savage

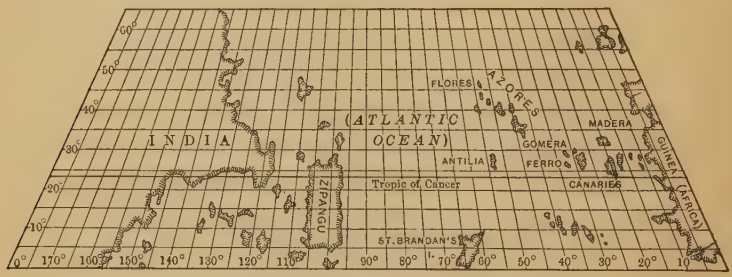
beasts and other great dangers. So people began to think more and more about finding other ways to go to the Far East. The Portuguese were trying to sail around the south coast of Africa. A few were thinking about going around the world by sailing westward across the Atlantic. This last idea finally led Columbus to make his great journey.

7. How Columbus Came to Believe the Earth Round. —We now know that the earth is round, very nearly the shape of a true sphere. At the time of Columbus most people believed that it was flat. Some thought that it was flat and round, just like the top of a dining table, and others thought that it was flat and square, or rectangular, like the top of a flat desk. Those who believed the earth flat said that if it were round like a ball, then there must be people or animals of some kind on the other side of it and that they would be walking with their feet pointed upward and their heads pointed downward. This, they said, could not be, because those on the other side would fall off the earth. In answer to the argument that if the earth were flat, the water of the ocean would run off the edge, they said that all around the edge of the earth there was land which kept it from running off.

However, the belief that the earth is round had been held by many people for nearly two thousand years before the time of Columbus. Some stories told about Columbus would lead us to believe that this idea was new with him, but that is by no means true. There were the two beliefs that we have mentioned about the shape of the earth, and the credit that belongs to Columbus is, that he chose the right one.

Columbus read all the books on geography that he could find, and we know from the remarks which he wrote in

their margins that he was most interested in the shape of the earth and the possibility of reaching the East by sailing westward. When still a young man, not far from thirty years of age, he wrote to one of the wisest men of that time, an Italian by name Toscanelli, asking him for his opinion about the shape of the earth, and telling him of his idea of sailing westward to reach the East. In reply, Toscanelli sent a copy of a letter which he had recently



TOSCANELLI'S MAP
The original has been lost and this is from an early reproduction simplified

written to the King of Portugal on this same subject and also enclosed a copy of a map. This map has been lost, but the one shown here is part of an early reproduction of it. The island called Cipango was supposed to represent modern Japan, which is right off the coast of Asia. In the letter to Columbus, Toscanelli said, among other things,

"I perceive your great and noble desire to go to the place where spices grow; wherefore in reply to a letter of yours, I send you a copy of another letter, which I wrote to a friend of mine a gentleman of the household of the most gracious king of Portugal."

Following is part of the letter to the gentleman in the King's household of which Toscanelli enclosed a copy to Columbus:

"I was glad to hear of your intimacy and favor with your most noble and illustrious king. I have formerly spoken with you about a shorter route to the places of spices by ocean navigation than that which you are pursuing by Guinea. The most gracious king now desires from me some statement, or rather an exhibition to the eye, so that even the slightly educated can grasp and comprehend that route. Although I am well aware that this can be proved from the spherical shape of the earth, nevertheless, in order to make the point clearer and to facilitate the enterprise, I have decided to exhibit that route by means of a sailing chart. I therefore send to his majesty a chart made by my own hands, upon which are laid down your coasts, and the islands from which you must begin to shape your course steadily westward, and the places at which you are bound to arrive, and how far from the pole or from the equator you ought to keep away, and through how much space or through how many miles you are to arrive at places most fertile in all sorts of spices and gems; and do not wonder at my calling *west* the parts where the spices are, whereas they are commonly called *east,* because to persons sailing persistently westward those parts will be found by courses on the under side of the earth. . . . . I have drawn upon the map various places upon which you may come, for the better information of the navigators, in case of their arriving, whether through accident of wind or what not, at some different place from what they had expected; but partly in order that they may show the inhabitants that they have some knowledge of their country, which is sure to be a pleasant thing. It is said that none but merchants dwell in the islands. For so great there is the number of navigators with their merchandise that in all the rest of the world there are not so many as in one very splendid port called Zaiton. For they say that a hundred great ships of pepper unload in that port every year, besides other ships bringing other spices. That country is very populous and very rich, with a multitude of provinces and kingdoms and cities without number. . . . . I had a long talk with him about many things, about the great size of their royal palaces and the remarkable length and breadth of their rivers, and the multitudes of cities on the banks of the rivers, such that on one river there are about two hundred cities, with marble bridges very long and wide and everywhere adorned with columns. . . . . .

"From the city of Lisbon, due west there are 26 spaces marked on the map, each of which contains 250 miles, as far as the very great and splendid city of Quinsay. For it is a hundred miles in circumference and has ten bridges, and its name means City of Heaven, and many wonderful things are told about it and about the multitude of its arts and revenues. . . .

But from the island of Antilia, which you know, to the very splendid island of Cipango, there are ten spaces. For that island abounds in gold, pearls, and precious stones, and they cover the temples and palaces with solid gold. So through the unknown parts of the route, the stretches of sea to be traversed are not great. Many things might perhaps have been stated more clearly, but one who duly considers what I have said will be able to work out the rest for himself. Farewell, most esteemed one."

In reply to a letter from Columbus, Toscanelli wrote:

"I have received your letters, with the things which you sent me, for which I thank you very much. I regard as noble and grand your project of sailing from east to west according to the indications furnished by the map which I sent you, and which would appear still more plainly upon a sphere. I am much pleased to see that I have been well understood, and that the voyage has become not only possible but certain, fraught with honor as it must be, and inestimable gain, and most lofty fame among all Christian people. . . . . .

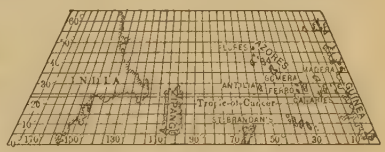
"When that voyage shall be accomplished, it will be a voyage to powerful kingdoms, and to cities and provinces most wealthy and noble, abounding in all sorts of things most desired by us; I mean, with all kinds of spices and jewels in great abundance. . . . . For these reasons, and many others that might be mentioned, I do not wonder that you, who are of great courage, and the whole Portuguese nation, which has always had men distinguished in all such enterprises, are now inflamed with desire to execute the said voyage."

We do not know just when Columbus received these letters, but it was certainly more than ten years before he sailed on his first voyage. No doubt his belief that the earth was round grew stronger as the years went on.

It was very important, indeed, for Columbus to be certain in his belief that the earth was round, for when he tried to get kings and queens and others to help him, he first had to tell them the wonderful stories about the riches of the Far East, and then show them that this Far East could be reached by going west. Much of the trouble which Columbus had in securing help came from the fact that those who might help him would not do so because

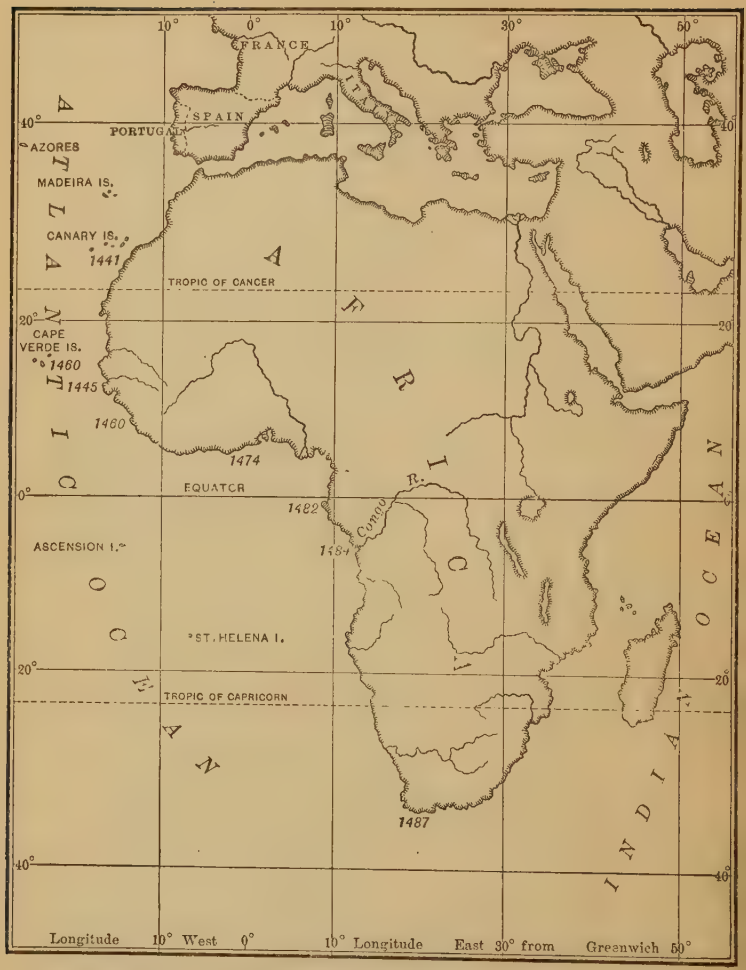
they thought the earth flat and, of course, if the earth was flat, the East could not be reached by sailing west.

8. Stories of Islands in the West.—If we look at this map we will see that the Portuguese sailors had already gone a long distance out into the Atlantic. The island of Flores, the most westerly of the Azores, is more than one-third the distance from Spain to the place where Columbus finally found the New World. Columbus, however, believed that there were many islands scattered all over the ocean. For centuries stories had been told about a wonderful island called Antilia that was supposed to be out in the Atlantic far beyond any of the islands yet discovered. Columbus believed that this island was far on the way toward Asia, and he was confirmed in this belief by the letter and the map of Toscanelli. It was his idea that if he got into trouble out in the open ocean, he could run up to this island to repair his ships or to seek shelter from dangerous storms.



TOSCANELLI'S MAP REDUCED, SHOWING THE ISLANDS IN THE ATLANTIC

Many other wonderful stories were told. Sailors who came back from trips far out into the ocean told of lands that they thought they had seen; but when others went in search of them, they had somehow disappeared. This led to the belief that there were floating islands scattered all over the ocean. It was also believed that there were many islands along the eastern coast of Asia, and it was expected that these would be found long before the mainland would be reached. One of these islands was actually known from the stories of Marco Polo. It was called Cipango, and



MAP SHOWING PORTUGUESE EXPLORATIONS ALONG THE COAST OF AFRICA

was the island of Japan, about which Marco Polo had learned on his trip to China.

9. Voyages and Discoveries of the Portuguese.—To understand conditions at the time we must now tell briefly about the voyages and discoveries of the Portuguese.

For a century before the coming of Columbus, they had sailed westward into the Atlantic and south along the west coast of Africa. They had discovered the Azores, the Madeiras, and the Canaries, and, in their efforts to reach Asia by sea, they were gradually working their way down the west coast of Africa. Just before reaching Guinea, the coast of Africa turned towards the east and for a time they hoped they had reached the southern end of the continent. But about the time that Columbus came to Portugal they were discouraged by finding that the coast again turned southward. It was not until 1487, five years before the first voyage of Columbus, that they finally reached the Cape of Good Hope, the most southerly point of Africa. Even then they did not go on to sail completely around the continent, and it was ten years later that Da Gama finally went on across the Indian Ocean to India. It is known that Bartholomew, the younger brother of Columbus, took part in the voyage that first reached the Cape of Good Hope, and it is believed that Columbus himself took part in some of the earlier voyages.

10. The Voyages of the Norsemen.—Sailors from Norway and Denmark, who are usually called Norsemen, had crossed the northern end of the Atlantic and found America nearly five hundred years before the time of Columbus. Some time during the years when he lived in Portugal, Columbus made a voyage to the north, visiting England, and possibly going as far north as Iceland. Some writers of history have believed that in talking with

the people of England or Iceland, Columbus heard stories about the land that these Norsemen had found far to the west. If he heard such stories, it is certain that they did not lead him to try to find the land that the Norsemen had found. It was believed at that time that all the lands found by the Norsemen in going westward across the northern part of the Atlantic were connected in the north with Europe. Columbus wanted to go to the Indies and he believed that they lay far to the south of the lands which the Norsemen had discovered. As we shall find, when Columbus left Spain he sailed to the southwest instead of to the northwest. We may be certain, therefore, that he did not get any ideas from the stories of the Norse voyages which helped him to decide to reach Asia by sailing westward. Indeed, it is very doubtful whether he ever heard of these voyages at all, for he never mentions them in any of his writings which have come down to us.

11. **The Size of the Earth.**—Columbus thought that the earth was really much smaller than it is, and so he believed that the distance from Spain to Eastern Asia was only about three thousand miles. We now know that if there had been no land in the way, so that Columbus could have sailed to Eastern Asia in a straight line, he would have had to go about three times as far as he actually did. Some geographers of that time believed that the distance was even less than three thousand miles, and at times when Columbus was very anxious to get help he spoke of Asia as bordering up against the coast of Africa.

At that time there was a general belief that only about one-sixth of the earth's surface was covered with water

and that the other five-sixths were land. For this reason the maps of that time showed large areas of land and small seas. We now know that only about one-fourth of the earth's surface is land and that the other three-fourths are covered with water. If Columbus had really known how large the earth is and that he would have had to sail nine thousand miles before he could reach Asia, it is very likely that he would not have dared to start on his voyage. Of course, in those days nobody even dreamed of a large continent lying between Europe and Asia.

12. Summary of Columbus's Beliefs.—We have now seen that Columbus believed the stories of the wonderful riches of the Far East; that he believed the earth to be round; that he thought the size of the earth was much less than it really is, so that the distance from Spain to Asia would be only about three thousand miles. He believed that there were very many islands scattered all over the Atlantic and he expected to discover some of these before he actually reached Asia. In only one of these beliefs was he right, namely, that the earth is round. It is surely interesting that every one of his mistaken notions was a good reason why he should go across the Atlantic. Thus all his mistakes made him more determined to go and made it easier for him to get the help which he needed both in ships and in crews. If Columbus and those who helped him had known the facts he would never have crossed the Atlantic and found America.

13. Columbus as a Sailor.—To sail westward across the Atlantic for the purpose of reaching Asia, it was by no means enough that Columbus should believe the earth to be round and the distance to be much less than it was.

It was necessary for him to be a very good seaman. He needed to have the courage to go far out into the unknown ocean. He needed to be able to command other men, and he had to have the earnest desire to go, which would make him disregard all the dangers that he might meet.

His life among the Portuguese had helped very much to develop these qualities in him. No doubt he sailed on many of their voyages, he took part in long journeys into unknown seas, and he learned from the Portuguese sailors the art of handling ships and of finding his location at sea. We shall learn later that he was one of the very best sailors of his time. It happened repeatedly that no one else in his crews knew where they were, but seldom, if ever, did Columbus miss his bearings. It is interesting to note the combination of qualities which were needed for the undertaking of Columbus. He needed to know the best science of his time, to be informed on all that the best geographers could teach, and besides that he had to be a rough-and-ready, practical seaman who was willing to brave all the dangers of unknown oceans.

We shall see that still other qualities were needed. It required remarkable personal qualities to go on for many years seeking the help he needed and to strive to convince people that his plans could be carried out.

14. Columbus Tried to Get Help From the King of Portugal.—To undertake such a voyage as Columbus wanted to make it was necessary to have good ships, and crews brave enough to start out on a long and dangerous journey. Good ships cost a great deal of money, and sailors to go on them had to be paid wages. Columbus was poor and had to seek help from some one else. In

those days, it was usual for kings to send out ships to search for new lands. Since the Portuguese were the greatest explorers of that time, it was natural that Columbus should go to the King of Portugal, to explain what he wanted to do and to ask for help. The King, however, soon learned that Columbus not only wanted help in ships and money, but that he also wanted to get for himself a large share of the riches to be obtained from the lands that he might find. Columbus also wanted the King to promise that he should be viceroy or governor of all the new lands that he might discover. In those days when a king fitted out ships to discover new lands, it was customary that the lands thus found, and whatsoever could be made by trading with them or by stealing their wealth, all belonged to the king. So the demands of Columbus appeared very unusual and the King refused to give him any help.

The King of Portugal thought, however, that it might be worth while to test the ideas of Columbus. So he sent some ships to carry goods to the Cape Verde Islands and gave them instructions to go from there westward into the Atlantic, to search for the land that Columbus had told about. This shows that if Columbus had not wanted much more than others who went out on such journeys, he would have received help long before he did and his voyages could have begun many years before he actually got started.

There are stories that at this time Columbus tried to get help from his own city of Genoa, in Italy, and also from one other place in Italy; but if he tried he certainly failed. We are not at all certain, however, that either of these stories is true.

15. Columbus Leaving Portugal for Spain.—When Columbus found that the king of Portugal would not give him the help that he wanted and at the same time promise him all that he demanded, he decided to go to Spain, to try to get the King and Queen of Spain to help him. He believed that they might be willing to do so because he knew that Spain was now anxious to discover new lands. For many years the Portuguese had done more exploring than any other people in Europe, but Spain was now rapidly becoming more powerful, and it seemed reasonable to Columbus that the Spaniards might be anxious to get the trade of the East and so get ahead of their old rivals. It was in Spain that Columbus at last got his ships and his men, but it took him eight years to get them.

MAP OF ARAGON, CASTILE AND MOORISH SPAIN

16. Spain When Columbus Came There.—To understand the trouble which Columbus had in getting help from Spain, we must now tell something about that country as it was at the time of Columbus. More than seven hundred years earlier, a people called the Moors had crossed over from northern Africa, taken much of the land, and made their homes there. These Moors were a very remarkable people. At a time when the streets of London were unpaved, with footpaths winding among puddles of filth in which hogs were wallowing, the streets of Cordova and Seville were beautifully paved. While

the nobles and princes of England found their way at night by means of lanterns made of animal membranes stretched over wooden frames and little tallow candles placed inside them, the Moors walked through the well-lighted streets of their proud cities. They built great schools and universities and erected wonderful churches and palaces. Indeed, the Moors were the most highly civilized people of their time. But the Spaniards always

THE CONVENT OF LA RABIDA, IN PALOS, WHERE COLUMBUS RESTED FROM TIME TO TIME WHILE IN SPAIN

hated them because the Moors had driven them out of a part of their own land.

If you will look at the map of Spain given here, you will see the part which the Moors conquered and you will also see the part of Africa from which they came. You will see that the rest of Spain was divided into two great parts called Aragon and Castile. Ferdinand, the King of Aragon, had married Isabella, the Queen of Castile. In this way Aragon and Castile were united. When Columbus came to Spain, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella were carrying on a great war against the Moors.

17. Columbus in Spain.—It was by no means easy for a poor stranger like Columbus to get permission even to

come to the Court of Ferdinand and Isabella. This would be difficult enough in ordinary times, and was especially so now when the attention of the King and Queen was wholly taken up by the great war. Columbus first sought the acquaintance of some of the great men of Spain, and it was by their help that he was finally permitted to appear at the Court. After some years he was engaged in the service of the Court and received a small sum of money

COLUMBUS BEFORE THE COURT AT SALAMANCA

yearly. The King and Queen, however, were too busy to listen to his plans and they asked a number of learned men to decide what should be done. Some of these men really believed that Columbus might be right, while others declared he was a wild dreamer. So years went by without anything being done. In the meantime, Bartholomew, the younger brother of Columbus, returned from the voyage on which the southern end of Africa had been found. This expedition made him fear that the Portuguese would be the first to reach the East by an all-sea route and

so he hurried Bartholomew to England to seek help. He also tried to get some of the rich nobles of Spain to furnish ships and men, and they would have done so had not the Queen objected. She did not wish anyone except herself or the King to send out such an expedition.

FERDINAND OF ARAGON

During all these years Columbus talked about his plans to all who would listen, and he succeeded in getting many to believe in them. This was important, for the King and Queen would not be likely to furnish ships and men for such a voyage without the advice of the wisest and most learned men of their kingdom.

In the first months of the year 1492, after the war against the Moors had been finished, the King and Queen

decided to send Columbus on his voyage. Trouble started, however, when they found what Columbus wanted. In spite of years of poverty and waiting, he made exactly the same demands of the King and Queen of Spain that he had made eight years earlier of the King of Portugal. He still wanted to be viceroy of all lands he might discover. He wanted the promise of large incomes of money and other things which it was difficult even for a king and queen to grant. But Columbus was fixed in his ideas as to what he should have, and the result was that all help was refused him.

18. Columbus Starting for France.—Columbus now decided to go to France. Alone, riding a mule, he started on his way. There were many people at the Court, however, who believed in his stories and plans, and it hurt their pride to think that all these wonderful things might go to France just because Spain would not risk a small amount of money. These people went to the Queen. For some time it had been noted that the King was not as willing to listen to the plans of Columbus as was the Queen, and so they went to her instead of to the King. They told her again the stories which Columbus had told of the wonderful riches of the East; they told her that Columbus was really right and that if she would send him out, the Spanish Court would be the richest in the world. The result was that the Queen decided to help Columbus. She said that she would get the money from Castile and that Aragon should have no part in this expedition. So it happened that a messenger was sent in all haste to overtake Columbus. He found him a long way from the Court, riding his lone mule. The messenger stopped him and told him that the Queen wanted him to return. Columbus

was uncertain and thought that probably when the time really came they would again refuse him help. Nevertheless, he turned his mule around and went back to the Spanish Court. The story has been told that the Queen

ISABELLA OF CASTILE

pawned her jewels to get the money with which to fit out the ships. This is now known not to be true. It is pretty certain, however, that all the expense was borne by Castile. We shall learn a little later that the ships were provided in another way; that is, the Queen was not obliged to buy the ships nor to build them.

19. What the King and Queen Promised Columbus.—While the Queen provided the necessary money, the King joined her in the promises which were made to Columbus. The most important of these were:

1. That Columbus should be viceroy of all the lands which he might discover, and that his son, and his son's son and some member of his family forever after him should be viceroy of these lands.

2. That he should be Judge and Admiral of all the lands and islands he might discover.

3. That he himself should receive one-tenth of all the valuable goods, all the gold and silver and pearls, and all things whatsoever which should be gotten from these lands, after the cost of obtaining them had been deducted.

This last promise would have made Columbus very wealthy if he had found the rich lands that he expected to find. We must be sure to understand just what this promise meant. Any people who were to trade with these lands would have to give Columbus one-tenth of all the profits they made, and anybody who might go over and rob those people would have to give him one-tenth of what they took.

There were other promises too, but these were the most important ones. For many hundreds of years, both before and after Columbus, a great many ships had gone out into the ocean to find new land, but no one had ever received a promise of the kind that Columbus received. It was really a promise which not even a king and a queen could carry out in the long run. It is remarkable that this poor man, a foreigner born in Genoa, who had lived a few years in Portugal, should come to the Court of Spain and be able to get the King and the Queen to make him such a promise. It is the same kind of promise that he tried to get from the King of Portugal and which that King

refused to make. It was because of that refusal that Columbus left Portugal for Spain, and he had once left the Court of Spain to go to France just because the King and Queen had in the first place refused to grant his demands.

The one thing that Columbus wanted above everything else was riches and glory for himself. We shall see later in this story that his endeavor to become rich gave him more suffering and pain and caused him more trouble than all the other things of his life. Had he been satisfied to go out as other great sailors had done, to find new lands, and to receive what was naturally given to people who work mainly for their country, he would have been much wealthier in the end. Had he not been so grasping he probably could have started on his first voyage eight years earlier.

When Columbus really discovered the new world he found but little gold or other riches, and he died poor and lonely and almost forgotten.

20. How the Ships Were Provided.—The story has been told that Queen Isabella bought the ships. This story, however, is not true, and the way that the ships really were obtained was as follows.

The people of the little town of Palos had done something to displease the King and Queen, and it had been decided to fine the town by making the people furnish two ships and crews for the time of twelve months. When it was decided to help Columbus, an order was made out at the Court, commanding Palos to prepare two ships, to provide crews, and to let Columbus take them for his proposed voyage.

The sailors on these vessels were to be paid the same as sailors on warships, which was more than ordinary sailors received, and were to be given four months' pay in advance, at the time of starting on the voyage. Any one who might be under arrest or in jail was to be allowed to become a member of the crews, and nothing was to be done with him until two months after his return. It will thus be seen that any criminal in the town of Palos—a thief or a murderer—might avoid being put into prison or escape being executed for a certain length of time simply by going on the voyage of Columbus.

The town of Palos was required to furnish only two vessels. Columbus, however, was allowed to get another vessel if he could, making three in all. This he finally did by the help of two brothers, who were old seamen and who had considerable money. The name of these men was Pinzon. The vessel which was provided by the Pinzons was the largest of the three and was used by Columbus as his flagship. We will describe these ships a little later.

21. Difficulty in Getting Crews.—It was very hard, indeed, to get seamen to go on this voyage. Everybody was afraid of the great dangers which were believed to be lurking in the far ocean. Even emptying the jail of Palos did not furnish enough men for the crews. So Ferdinand and Isabella gave an order to impress seamen. To "impress" seamen means simply to take them, whether they want to go or not, and make them go. It was found difficult even to impress seamen, and it looked for a while as though the whole plan would fail because of lack of sailors. At that time the two Pinzon brothers, the ones who had helped Columbus to get the third ship, offered

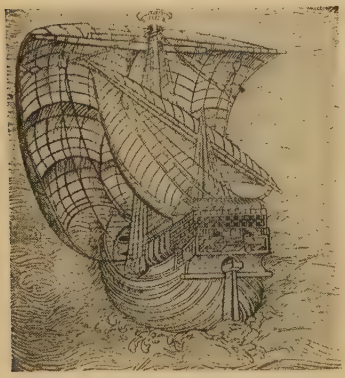
to go. They were well-known seamen, and other people thought that if they were willing to go, the voyage might not be so very dangerous after all, and so the crews were finally gotten together.

22. How the Money was Really Provided.—About one-third of the money necessary for the expenses of the voyage was provided by Columbus himself, with the help of the Pinzons. The other two-thirds, or just a little more than that, was provided by Queen Isabella from the income of Castile. The little town of Palos had, of course, to provide the two ships and to pay their crews.

CHAPTER II

The First Voyage

23. The Ships of Columbus.—Columbus thus finally obtained three ships, the Santa Maria, the Nina, and the Pinta. The town of Palos provided the Nina and the Pinta, and some friends of Columbus, the Pinzons, helped him to secure the Santa Maria. The Nina and the Pinta were sailing vessels of the kind called caravels, which were much used in those days to carry armed men. These ships were open in the middle but built-over at both ends. That is, in each end there were small rooms where the crew and the captain lived. They were fast sailers and with a good wind could make as high as twelve miles an hour. This would make one mile in five minutes, and it takes a fairly fast runner to go at that rate for a whole mile. The Nina was a little smaller than the Pinta.



SHIP OF 1486

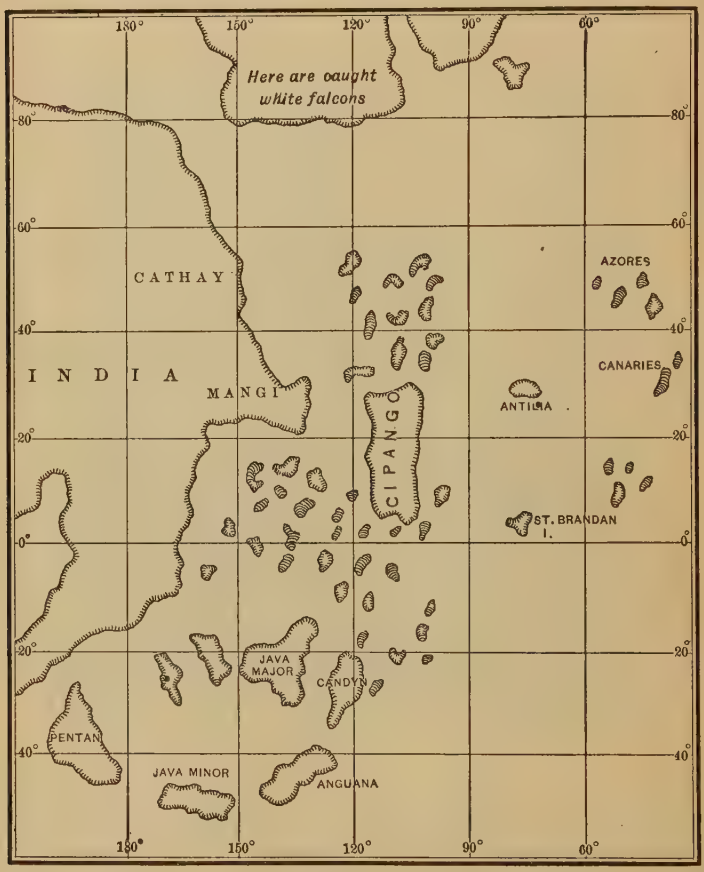
The third ship, the Santa Maria, was larger and heavier, and had a deck extending over her full length. This kind of ship was called a carack and was ordinarily used for carrying merchandise. Columbus complained that the Santa Maria was a dull sailer and not well suited for his purposes. The ships of Columbus were very small

when compared with the ships that sail the ocean to-day. It has been figured out that the Santa Maria was sixty-three feet long on the deck, twenty feet wide, and about ten and one-half feet deep. If fourteen ships of her size

SHIP OF FIFTEENTH CENTURY

were placed end to end they would not all together be as long as the Lusitania. The Santa Maria was less than twice as long as an ordinary school room, and somewhat narrower. You will find that your school room is more than ten and one-half feet high, which was the distance from the deck to the bottom of the Santa Maria.

24. What Columbus Expected to Find.—Columbus believed that by sailing about three thousand miles west-



MAP DRAWN FROM BEHAIM'S GLOBE

ward he would reach the eastern coast of Asia. He also believed that between Europe and Asia there were many

islands which had not yet been discovered, and he expected to find some of those on his trip across. But after leaving

MAP DRAWN FROM BEHAIM'S GLOBE

the Canary Islands, which were already known, he did not see land until he reached the West Indies.

The map on pages 34 and 35 is from a globe made in the year 1490, just two years before Columbus sailed. It was made by a man who up to that time had lived in Portugal and who therefore had the same ideas about the shape of the earth and the nearness of Europe to Asia that the learned men of Portugal had at that time. Columbus had not seen this globe before he started on his voyage, because it was made in a German city and did not reach Spain in time. But it represented the most advanced ideas about geography and we may well believe that it shows fairly well what Columbus had in mind.

Columbus must have taken maps with him, but it is not known just what they were. Since he himself was an expert map maker it is very likely that he carried maps of his own construction. For more than ten years he had been making plans for this journey, and he had no doubt made sailing charts and maps of the regions he proposed to visit. No doubt, too, he showed these maps and charts to people whose help he was trying to secure. Naturally, such maps would be taken on the voyage. We have no sure proof as to any of these things, and we can only believe that the map given here shows fairly well the nature of the maps and charts which he carried.

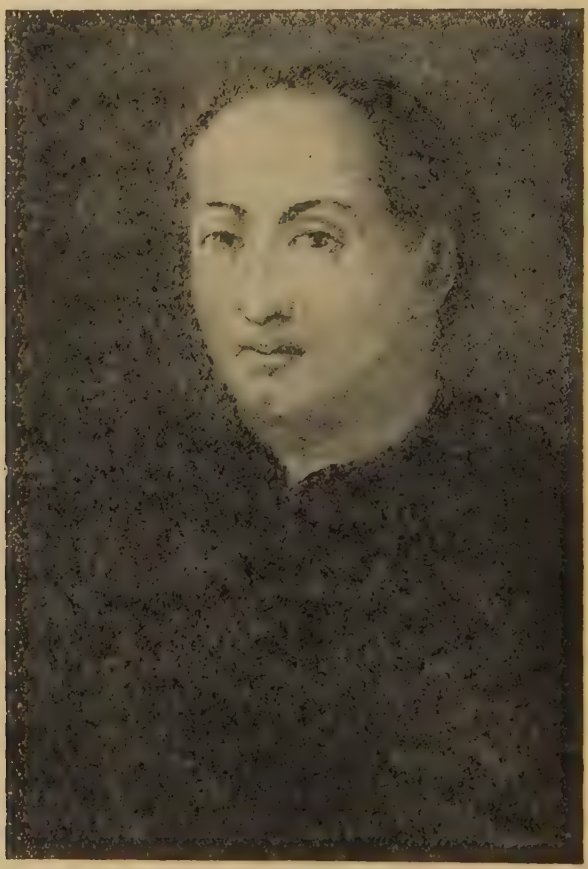
25. Starting on the Voyage.—When they were finally ready for the voyage, the ships lay in the mouth of a small river that flowed into the harbor of Palos. About a half hour before sunrise, on the morning of August third, 1492, the anchors were lifted, the sails were spread, and the little ships headed towards the sea. Columbus decided to make a complete history of his journey and keep a daily record of all interesting events. A book in which

such a record is kept is called a journal and we will refer to the one kept by Columbus as the **Journal.** While the original Journal has been lost, we have early copies of it which are believed to be fairly accurate. It is from this Journal that we have most of our information about this remarkable and important voyage. Columbus also decided to make a map of the countries that he might discover and to make a chart showing the exact track of his vessels across the ocean. It is interesting to notice that it took seventy days from the time the ships sailed from Palos until they reached the West Indies, which shows an average speed of about forty-five miles per day. The Lusitania, going at her best speed, would have made this distance in just a few hours more than five days. Columbus headed his ships for a group of islands called the Canaries, which are about one thousand miles from Spain.

26. The Appearance of Columbus.—We do not know that a picture of Columbus was ever painted while he lived. We give here two of the earliest pictures of him, and they are so different that both of them cannot be good likenesses of the real man.

We learn from the writings of those who knew him that he was tall and strong, with flowing white hair and keen gray eyes. He was friendly and polite, and people were charmed by his conversation. Even those who opposed him felt respect for him, for he had an air of authority. He was full of enthusiasm for his own plans, and felt that they would not only bring him great wealth and fame but would be the means of carrying the Christian religion to millions of heathens. In his later years he wished people to think he was of noble family, although

we know his father was a poor weaver. He even changed his name from Columbus (Colombo in Italian) to Colon,



COLUMBUS

which was the name of a great French admiral. Nowadays we often find that great men whose parents were poor

are proud of their rise in life and that they refer with much pride to the humble conditions from which they came. Columbus seems to have been ashamed of his origin.

COLUMBUS

27. The Voyage to the Canaries.—There was no difficulty in reaching the Canaries. Ships had sailed from Spain and from Portugal to these islands time and again, and no good seaman had any doubt about this part of the

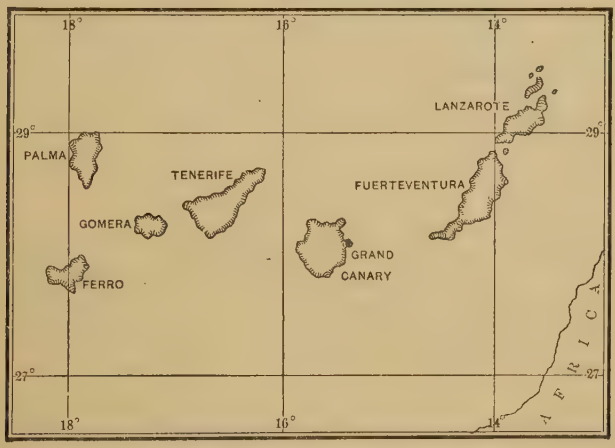
voyage. At the Canaries the Nina had to stop to change her sails. The Pinta had begun to leak and had to be repaired; her rudder, or steering gear, had been damaged on the way down and that also had to be fixed.

While passing one of the Canary Islands, the Tenerife, they saw a volcano in eruption. Stories have been told of the great fear which the sailors had of this volcano, but there is no good reason for believing them. There were many volcanoes in the waters where these sailors were used to going and they no doubt had seen them in action before. People who have written about Columbus have often told stories, the truth of which no one knows. Indeed, they have liked to tell exciting tales about his journeys. We always need to be careful in reading about great men to be sure that there is good reason for believing what is told about them.

The island at which they stopped last is called Gomera. Here they took on board wood, water, and food. At this place they also met people from the Island of Ferro, which is the farthest west among the Canaries. These people told of islands farther out in the Atlantic. Such stories are not surprising. We shall see that several times on this voyage Columbus and his men thought they saw land only to find a little later that they were mistaken.

28. Sailing the Unknown Ocean.—On Thursday morning, September sixth, Columbus and his crews left Gomera and started out over the open ocean. Before starting on the journey Columbus had predicted that land would be reached by sailing three thousand miles or less from Spain. He feared, however, that they might have to go farther, so he decided to deceive his men. When they had sailed

about one hundred and eighty miles he told them that they had gone only about one hundred and forty miles. In this way he hoped to be able to make them believe that they were not as far from home as they really were. When they reached the West Indies the crews were made to



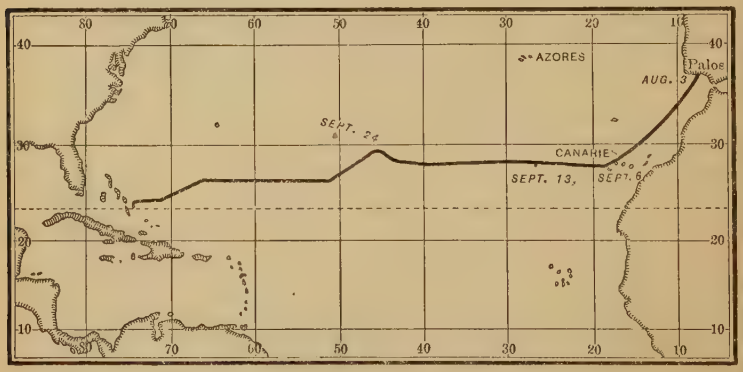
THE CANARIES

believe they had gone several hundred miles less than they really had.

There were many things which made them fearful out in this vast ocean where no one had ever gone before but which imagination had infested with countless dangers. The long days and nights gave the superstitious sailors plenty of time to think about the great monsters which they had heard inhabited the Sea of Darkness. The wind was blowing constantly to the westward, and they feared it would be difficult to sail back against it. Would they sail over the edge of the earth and never be able to return?

We shall see in the next section that the compass behaved in a way to alarm them. It was really a wonder that Columbus could persuade these crews to go on straight westward for over thirty days.

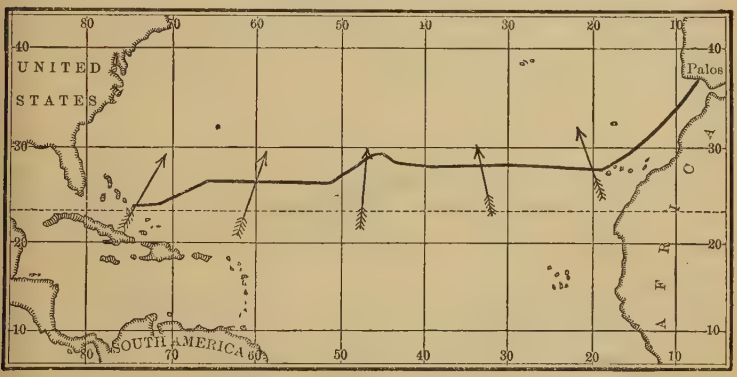
29. **The Compass.**—At the time of Columbus, sailors used the compass to show the direction in which they were going. In all the seas known at that time the needle pointed not quite north, but a little to the west of north.



OUTLINE MAP OF FIRST OUTWARD VOYAGE

It was known that by going westward the compass needle would point more nearly to the north. But no one had heard of a place where it pointed exactly north, or even somewhat to the east of north. The map here shows very nearly the direction in which the needle pointed at the various parts of Columbus' voyage. When they got out a certain distance, they found that it pointed straight north, and when they got a little farther it began to point a little to the east of north. This they could not explain, and to keep the crew from getting too much worried about

this matter, Columbus told them that it wasn't the compass which had gone wrong, but that the North Star had changed its location. As the voyage proceeded, the compass, of course, pointed more and more to the east, and Columbus kept on explaining this by saying that the North Star had moved more and more out of its proper place. Columbus did not really believe this, but he thought it



MAP SHOWING DEVIATION OF THE COMPASS

It is supposed that the needle pointed farther to the east in the time of Columbus than it does now, but just how much no one knows. This map gives a general idea of the way it pointed at that time.

would be less likely to scare the men than if he told them that the compass had begun to point in a direction where it never pointed before. He thought it might make them believe that the compass would be of little use in finding their way out in this part of the ocean.

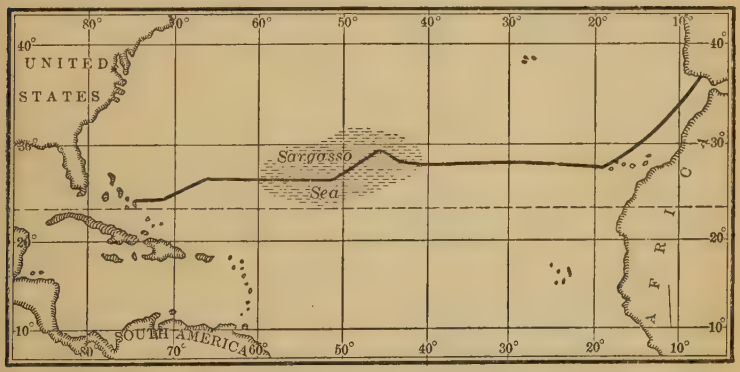
30. Birds at Sea.—Birds were seen almost every day of the voyage. Columbus remarked in his journal several times that birds would not go more than about sixty miles from land, therefore there must be land at least that near.

We now know, however, that many birds go much farther from land than Columbus supposed. Once he remarked that he knew there must be land close by, but that they would not stop to find it now as they could look it up when they returned. The Portuguese were often believed to have found land by following in the direction in which the birds were flying, and that made Columbus more certain that the birds belonged to some land nearby. Sometimes they thought they saw flocks of land birds in the evening, but they never could see them in the full light of day. Of course, they did not really see such birds, but only thought they did. No doubt the belief that land was near though they did not see it made them feel safer than they would have felt if they had known that there was no land within hundreds of miles.

31. The Sargasso Sea.—From September sixteenth to October third the ships sailed through great bodies of seaweed. These weeds were very heavy, perhaps as thick around as one's thumb, and very long. There were great masses of these weeds. Stories have been told that the sailors became much worried about them; they thought they would be entangled so badly in them that they could not get out; but there is no reason to believe these tales. Columbus says nothing about such fears in his Journal, and we must believe that the stories were invented by those who like to have exciting tales to tell. The weeds were thought to be river weeds, or at least to come from some land nearby, and to indicate that they were sailing close to islands or lands which, however, they did not see. On September twenty-second they even changed their

direction in order to try to get out of the weeds, and they really did so for a short time.

We now know that there is a place in the Atlantic called the Sargasso Sea, where a great many weeds have been collected and are floating out in the middle of the ocean. These weeds are gathered here by great currents which go in a circle and thus keep them in a sort of eddy such as we often see in a river, where bits of wood may be



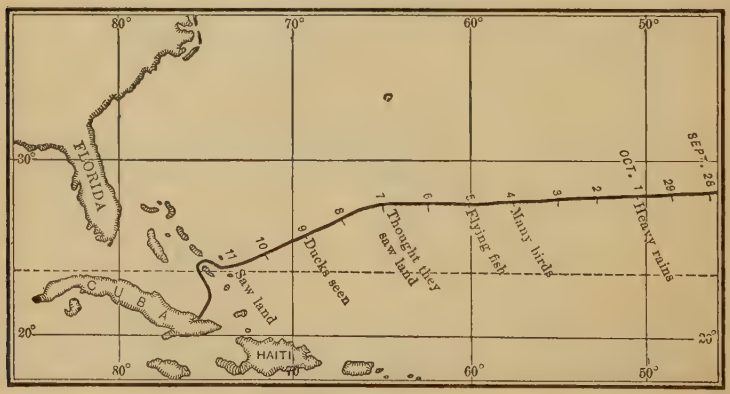
MAP SHOWING SARGASSO SEA

seen floating around in the same place for a long time. Columbus, of course, knew nothing about all this and thought they came from nearby land. Fortunately he did not lose time by searching for these lands. To sail west and thus to reach Asia was the guiding star of Columbus. His straight path across the ocean shows this more clearly than anything else. With slight exceptions, he laid his course as true to the westward as does the modern liner.

32. Story of the Voyage from the Canaries to the West Indies.—The first three days were calm and the ships

moved slowly. On September thirteenth, when they had been sailing just one week after leaving Gomera, they were about two hundred miles west of the Azores, which were the islands farthest west in the Atlantic which were known at that time.

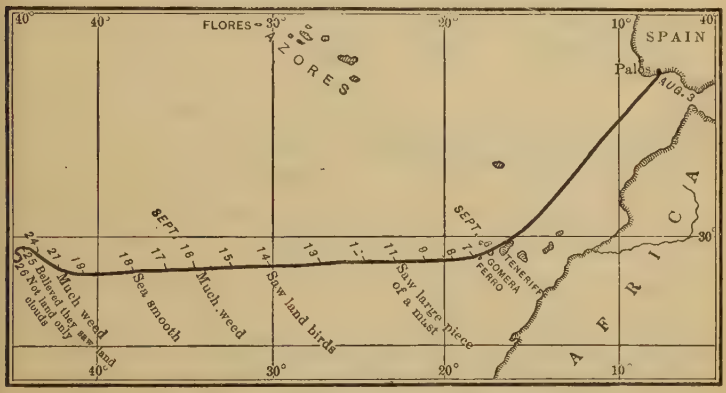
On September fourteenth they saw what they thought were land birds and they believed they were within a short distance from land. On Saturday, the fifteenth,



DETAILED MAP OF FIRST OUTWARD JOURNEY

they saw a bolt of fire shoot into the ocean. This, no doubt, was a shooting star or a meteor. On September sixteenth they entered the Sargasso Sea, about which we have just read. On September seventeenth they believed they saw other land birds, which, as Columbus remarked in his Journal, do not sleep on the sea. They were now sure they were near land, and the Pinta, which was the fastest sailer, started ahead to see land first. They also thought they saw flocks of birds in the west. There were heavy clouds, which they thought were sure signs of land.

On the nineteenth, the wind was against them, and they drifted somewhat toward the north, as can be seen on the map. Columbus remarked he was glad they ran into this head wind, because that showed that sometimes, at least, the wind blew eastward and that therefore it would not be so difficult to get back. On the twentieth two pelicans came on board, and again he remarked that these birds sleep on shore and go to sea in the morning. Hence they



DETAILED MAP OF FIRST OUTWARD JOURNEY

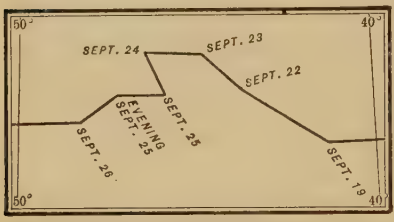
could not be far from land. On the twenty-second of September they saw a whale, and this they believed to be a sign that they were nearing land. Anyone who has crossed the Atlantic knows, of course, that the whale goes anywhere in the ocean.

On the twenty-second they changed their course again and headed still farther to the north, trying to get away from the weeds, which were very thick.

On the twenty-third and twenty-fourth there was no wind and the ships drifted with the current.

On the evening of the twenty-fifth they were certain they saw land in the southwest, and sailed in that direction to find it. In the morning of the next day, however, they discovered that what they had seen was only clouds and there was no land.

They now sailed straight west for twelve days. On October third they thought they saw branches with fruit among the weeds. On October sixth the Pinzon brothers began to urge that they sail on a more southerly course, as they believed that the land was in that direction. Columbus, however, persisted in sailing westward. On Sunday, October seventh, the Nina, which was in the lead, fired a gun and raised a flag to show that they had sighted land. Again they found they were mistaken. However, towards evening of that same day Columbus decided to go in a more southerly direction, as urged by the Pinzon brothers. Great flocks of birds were now seen flying southwestward, and again they thought of the stories of the Portuguese finding land by following birds.



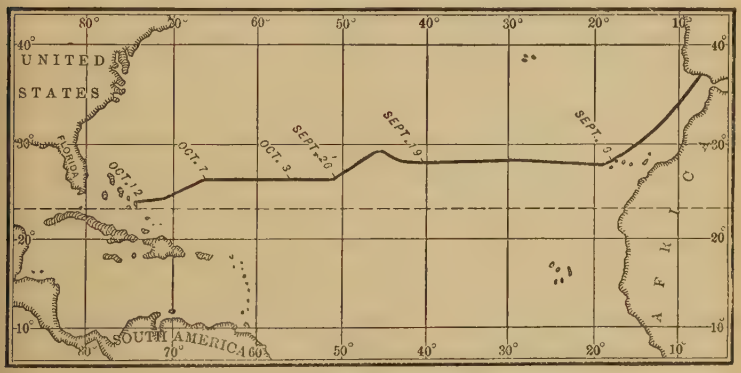
MAP OF DRIFTING FROM SEPTEMBER 19TH TO SEPTEMBER 26TH

They were now two hundred miles farther west than the distance which Columbus had said would take them to Cipango—the island of Japan.

On October eighth they saw land birds flying along the course of the ships. On the tenth Columbus wrote in his Journal that the crews were becoming very much worried and he encouraged them as best he could. He told them they could not now be far from land, that it

would be too bad to turn around after they had gone so far, and that if they only kept on they would reach Asia and that all of them would be very rich. He also spoke about what the King and Queen would think of men who had gone so far and would turn around without going just a little farther.

On October eleventh there was a very rough sea, and we may imagine how the little ships were tossed about



OUTLINE MAP OF FIRST VOYAGE, SHOWING MAIN DATES

in it. However, there were now real signs that land was near. They saw logs floating in the water, and they even thought they saw a stick of wood which had been carved with a knife. They saw green bushes, and stalks of the rosemary, and bits of cane. There was no doubt that land was near, and they changed their course to the west. At two o'clock in the morning of October twelfth, land was seen. The great voyage was over! It was now thirty-six days since they left the Canary Islands. They had found nothing unusual. The sea was the same kind of sea as

at home. The wind and the waves were the same as those they had been used to. They had found none of the horrible things which people believed were out in the great ocean. Indeed, nothing strange had happened on the journey. Longer voyages had frequently been made from Portugal. The only unusual thing about this voyage was that they had sailed out into the great ocean, straight toward the west, about two thousand miles farther than any ship had ever sailed, so far as they knew.

When they were sure that they saw land, the ships were turned around to avoid running ashore in the darkness. No doubt Columbus slept little that night. For more than ten years, possibly for nearly twenty years, he had been hoping some day to sail west to find land. Now he had sailed west just about the distance that he expected to sail to find the great continent of Asia. There the land lay before him, and he had no doubt but that it was Asia itself or one of the islands which he believed to be lying out in the sea near that continent. The moon was three-quarters full, and in its light, three thousand miles west of Europe, those little ships lay with their prows turned to the wind, their crews waiting for the morning, when they would head for the shore to see what they had really found. We must not forget that this voyage was one of the very greatest things ever accomplished by anyone. Columbus and his men knew that well. But Columbus had one fear. For many years he had hoped to become rich and great through such a voyage. To those who sent him he had held out prospects of glory and power sufficient to make them unrivaled among the kings of the earth, and what he had reserved for himself was enough to make

him richer and more powerful than any save his King and Queen. Would he find the riches? Was this indeed the land where bridges were built of costly stones, and where the people were so weak that he could easily make himself their master? We may well believe that he passed an anxious and restless night.

33. The Story of the Light.—Anyone who has read anything at all about the voyage of Columbus has read the story that in the evening of October eleventh, standing in the prow of his ship and peering into the darkness, he saw a light, and that this light was the first real sign of land that was seen. It would be more pleasant not to tell the story about this light, but those who write about men who have made history should tell the whole truth. The story goes that Columbus saw the light, or thought he saw it, and that he spoke to one of his men about it and that this man, who was not much more than a slave, said he thought he saw it too. Columbus also spoke to one other man in a different part of the ship about it, but this man could not see it. Columbus further said that he saw the light a little later and that it moved up and down. This was between ten and eleven o'clock at night. We know now that at the rate at which they were sailing they were at least thirty miles from the land which they really saw at two o'clock in the morning. Hence Columbus could not possibly have seen a light on shore, because there could not have been a light powerful enough to be seen even ten miles away, let alone thirty miles. Further, to be visible that far the light must have been elevated more than 600 feet above the water, and Columbus himself describes this land as low and flat. We must tell the rest

of the story. The King and the Queen had promised to give a sum of money every year for life to that one of the crew who should see land first. The sum of money was not great—about sixty dollars a year—but money was worth much more then than it is now, and taking it all in all it was a very considerable sum for a poor sailor. The man who really saw land first was a sailor on the Pinta, by name Roderigo de Triana. The Pinta fired the gun to let the rest of the ships know that this time they really saw land. As soon as this gun was fired, the ship turned about and lay still for the night.

It seems that if Columbus saw the light, as he says he did, at ten or eleven o'clock that night, he would not have gone on sailing straight for it if he saw it ahead, and if he saw it on either side of the vessel he would surely not have gone on, but would have stopped so as to see the land in the morning. If he really saw the light ahead, he would have known by the next morning that the light could not have been on the land now lying before them, since that was too far away from the place where he saw it.

On their return to Spain, Roderigo claimed the reward for seeing land first, but Columbus denied that he should have it and claimed it for himself because he had seen a light four hours before Roderigo really saw the land. The reward was given to Columbus and the story goes that Roderigo was so disgusted with Christian justice that he turned Mohammedan. So, the great admiral—the man who was to be the viceroy of all the lands that he should discover—kept for himself the money which would be of little importance to a rich man, but which would amount to a great deal for a poor sailor. To say the least, there

was grave doubt that Columbus really saw land first, and it would seem that a great and generous man would have allowed a poor sailor to get his reward and would

MAP SHOWING ISLANDS WHERE COLUMBUS MAY HAVE LANDED

not have taken it for himself. But this was not the way of Columbus.

34. Where Did Columbus Land?—It is not known with absolute certainty which one of the islands in the West Indies Columbus saw first. On the map in this page you will see Cat Island, Watlings Island, Samana, Acklin

Island, Mariguana, and Grand Turk Island. At one time or another each one of these has been supposed to be the place on which Columbus landed. It is now fairly certain, however, that he actually did land on Watlings Island. Columbus himself said that the island was low, that there was a large lagoon or lake in its interior, that it bore green trees, and many different kinds of fruit. Watlings Island seems to be the only one which answers this description completely.

MAP OF WATLINGS ISLAND

35. Course Among the Islands.—The course along which it is believed Columbus sailed among the islands is shown on the map (see page 61).

The first island, which we now believe was Watlings Island, he named San Salvador, or "Holy Savior." The next island of considerable size which he discovered he named Fernandina, after the King of Spain, and the next considerable island he named Isabella, after the Queen of Spain. Cuba he named Juana, after the Crown Prince of Spain, and Haiti (Hispaniola) was named after Spain herself. They left the eastern end of Haiti on January tenth and saw that island for the last time on the sixteenth of January. We thus see that Columbus and his men spent three months among these islands. By looking at a map of America, we will see that, after all, Columbus saw very little of it on his first journey, and we may

wonder why he did not stay longer and explore more of it; but we may be certain that he was anxious to get back home to tell the wonderful story of the land actually discovered away out in the ocean three thousand miles from Europe. We will now learn something about what Columbus did during the three months that he spent among these islands.

36. Character of Natives.—The people that Columbus found when he landed in the West Indies were different from any that had been seen by the people of Europe before that time. He called them Indians because he thought they were natives of India, and that name has since been applied to all the natives of America. Columbus says that the natives of the first island where he landed were simple and timid but friendly. They would run at the least provocation, but return again when friendliness was shown them. The natives of Haiti, however, were stout and brave, and different in many ways from those of the islands farther north. We shall find later that the natives of the islands still farther south were again very different from those in Haiti. The natives of the islands in the north were gentle and peaceful, while those from the islands in the south were very warlike and used to go on long voyages to attack the tribes of the north. These people wore little clothing, though more of it was worn in Haiti than in the other islands. The natives often painted their noses and eyes, and even their whole bodies. For ornaments they wore little trinkets fastened in their noses. They were willing to trade anything that they had, even pieces of gold, for little bells, some shiny stuff such as broken glass or broken dishes. In this and many other ways they were just like small children.

37. Houses, Canoes and Weapons of the Natives.—Columbus believed the natives did not know anything about the sharp edge of a knife or a sword, because they took hold of his sword in such a way as to cut their hands. They had spears made of sticks to which were tied pointed pieces of bone. They made canoes by hollowing out logs. Most of the canoes were small, just large enough for one person, but others were very large—some of them large

INDIAN BED OR HAMMOCK

enough to hold fifty men. Small paddles were used for oars. The natives were excellent swimmers. When a canoe tipped over, they swam along beside it, turned it over and crawled back into it again and were not in the least put out by such an accident. In Haiti one of the kings lived in considerable style. He was carried on an arrangement like a litter, and he even wore something on his head that resembled a crown. Columbus tells about going into some of the houses. Everything in them was neat, and there were beds hung between posts, which they

called hammocks. This is where we get our word hammock. The houses were shaped like tents, but there were not more than twelve or fifteen of them together in one group. Columbus says they saw dogs running about which could not bark.

The Indians had no domestic animals such as cattle, sheep, swine, and horses. They had large numbers of tame parrots which they killed and ate as we do turkeys and chickens. Their food consisted mostly of fruit which grew in abundance, of corn, potatoes, and fish. The Spaniards found large stores of fine cotton in Cuba, and the natives knew how to weave it into some kind of cloth.

38. Columbus and the Natives.—At San Salvador, Columbus retained two of the natives on his ships to help him talk with the Indians of the other islands. That is, he took them prisoners. A few days later, one of these escaped from the ship, but Columbus caught another man who was paddling around in a canoe and took him instead. Several times Columbus would capture men and even women and keep them prisoners for a while on his ships, treat them well and then give them presents and let them go so that they might tell the natives that the strangers were not dangerous. In this way Columbus got the natives to come to the shore and bring down things to trade for the little trinkets that he carried with him for that purpose. In some places the natives fled from their houses, and even from the towns, when they saw the strange ships coming toward shore. It was thought that they were afraid that these ships might carry some of their enemies, who used to come and make war upon them. Nearly all of the natives that Columbus

met on this voyage showed a friendly spirit, and with a few exceptions, such as taking some of them prisoner now and then, he treated them well in return. The natives along the eastern shore of Haiti were less friendly, and once they began to shoot at the Spaniards with their bows and arrows. Then, for the first time, Columbus fired at them with his guns and a number of the Indians were wounded. The fight lasted for a very short time, for when the natives saw the firing of the guns they ran for their lives. In Cuba, Columbus took six men, seven women, and some children on board his ship as prisoners, and ten of these were carried back to Spain. These people were taken by force and entirely against their will. They knew nothing about where they were going and their friends and relatives thought they might just as well be dead as to go out into the ocean on these strange ships. Columbus wanted these people to show to the King and Queen and the people of Spain, and he didn't care very much whether they liked to go or not. We shall learn later that Columbus cared little what the natives themselves wanted; he was willing to make them do anything, so long as he thought it would pay. We shall find him crowding hundreds of these poor, simple people in little ships to carry them to Spain to sell as slaves. The only excuse he ever made was that by taking them to Spain they could be converted into Christians. We certainly would not like to have strange things like those ships come to our shore and take some of our people away as was done with these natives.

39. The Search for Gold.—The movements of Columbus on his voyages cannot be understood, unless we keep

clearly in mind that what he was really trying to do was to get gold and other valuable things. Indeed, we cannot understand his life at all unless this is kept clearly in mind. In the Journal in which he described his first voyage he mentioned gold nearly every day from the time he reached the first island until he left for Spain. Small bits of gold were obtained from the natives at nearly all the places where they landed. More of it was obtained in Haiti than elsewhere, and that was probably the strongest reason why he decided to build a fort there, as we shall see a little later that he did.

In many places the natives wore small ornaments of gold and Columbus tried to find out from them where gold could be found. It is interesting that in most places he understood the natives to say that the gold was somewhere farther on; that there was not much of it in their island, but that there were other places where there was a great deal of it. The natives seemed to say that the land where the most gold could be found was to the south and east of the islands first visited. Their enemies, they said, went to the south to obtain gold.

On October fifteenth Columbus wrote that he hoped to find gold "with the help of our Lord." When he reached Fernandina he learned that there was a gold mine somewhere on that island, and he tried to find it but did not succeed. In Isabella he heard of a king who was covered with gold ornaments. On October twenty-first he wrote in his Journal, "I am proceeding solely in quest of gold and spices." In Cuba he heard stories of gold to be found elsewhere. He also learned that pearls could be found in some of the islands. On the north coast of Cuba, which

was the most westerly point reached on this voyage, very little gold was found. The natives, however, told of a place far to the south and east where much gold could be obtained, so on November twelfth Columbus turned about. If Columbus had been sailing merely to discover new lands and to learn about geography, and not to find gold, spices, and other riches, he would probably have gone farther westward along the north coast of Cuba. If he had, he would have discovered that Cuba was an island and not a part of the main land as he supposed to the end of his days. If he had sailed around the west end of Cuba, he would have gotten into the Gulf of Mexico, and it is perfectly possible that in that case he would have sailed still farther west and so found Mexico itself, where there was an immense amount of gold. If Columbus had not been so anxious to find gold, he might have found a very great deal of it.

About November twentieth, Pinzon, in the Pinta, stole away from Columbus in the hope that he might find gold all by himself. Columbus did not know where the Pinta had gone, and he even thought that Pinzon might have hurried back to Spain to carry the news of the discovery of these western lands to the King and Queen before Columbus could do so himself. About five weeks later, however, the Pinta was found on the north coast of Haiti, and this ship sailed with Columbus when they started on their homeward voyage.

In Haiti, where the fort was built, the King brought considerable gold. He had some large plates of this metal, which he broke in pieces and traded to the Spaniards.

On December twenty-second Columbus wrote in his

Journal, "Our Lord in whose hands are all things, be my Help. Our Lord in his mercy direct me where I may find the gold mine."

It is not surprising that Columbus should write this

DETAILED MAP OF JOURNEY AMONG ISLANDS

prayer in his Journal. He was sent out by the Spanish Court because it was supposed that India, where he was going, was immensely rich, and the thing that the Spaniards wanted above all else was to get hold of these riches. Columbus had been able to get his ships and his men

because it was thought that these riches could be had. The Spaniards did not think much about discovering lands simply for the sake of discovering them or finding out about things; they wanted to get rich—that is the thing that must be kept in mind to understand them at all.

40. The Shipwreck.—On December twenty-fifth (Christmas Day), the Santa Maria was wrecked. In the evening of December twenty-fourth the Santa Maria and the Nina were sailing smoothly along the northwest coast of Haiti. Columbus, who was badly in need of sleep, had gone to bed. On the Santa Maria all of the crew had done the same, except a young boy who was put at the helm to steer. When the vessel was drifting along with no one but the boy awake, a current carried her onto a sandbank. The boy awakened Columbus, who at once saw the danger. The crew were immediately called to work. They put out an anchor and they tried in every way to pull the ship off the sandbank, but could not move her. When they found that she was stuck fast they cut the mast and began to move the stores to the Nina. The natives came out in their canoes and helped in this work. During this Christmas Day everything of value was saved from the wrecked ship. The Santa Maria had to be given up, and Columbus now had left only one very small ship, the Nina. We remember that the Pinta had sailed away more than a month earlier, and as yet Columbus knew nothing of her whereabouts.

MAP OF HAITI SHOWING LA NAVIDAD

41. Building the Fort.—After the loss of the Santa Maria it was decided to build a fort and to leave part of the crew there to hunt for gold and spices, while the others were to go to Spain in the one little ship that was left. The fort was a rude building made of logs. They dug a deep and broad ditch around it, which they filled with water, and they also put up a tower. The ditch was to keep the natives from attacking the fort, and the tower was to enable the men to see the country for a distance around. Forty men were left at this fort. A list of the names was made, and this list has come down to us. Among these forty men there was one Englishman and one Irishman. They had bread and wine for one year, and seeds for planting in the spring. A small boat belonging to the Santa Maria was left them. Their purpose was to search for gold, and Columbus says that he expected these men to collect one ton of it by the time he should return. They named this fort the Navidad. The name is Spanish and refers to the "Nativity" or birth of Christ and also to the day when they were stopped at this place by the wreck of the Santa Maria, that is, to Christmas Day.

42. Leaving for Spain.—On Sunday, December thirtieth, Columbus had an interesting meeting with the King of that part of Haiti. The King and Columbus were very friendly one to another, and the King put his crown upon the head of Columbus. Columbus in turn took off his necklace and his scarlet cloak and placed them on the King. He put a fancy pair of shoes on the King's feet and placed a silver ring on his finger. But Columbus also wanted to show the King that in case he should get into a

fight with the Spaniards terrible things might be expected. So he fired a shot from his cannon and sent it clear through both sides of the Santa Maria that was lying on the bank. The great noise of the firing of the cannon and the wonderful power of that great ball was something terrifying and awful to those Indians. This cannon was indeed very different from the little spears which the Indians used as weapons.

Columbus now gave much good advice to the men who were to remain at the fort. We can easily see that they needed good advice. They were left there for the purpose of collecting gold, and they would, of course, need the help of the natives in doing this. There were only forty Spaniards and there was a whole island full of Indians. So it was very important that the Spaniards should treat the Indians well and not offend them in any way. We shall learn later that the good advice which Columbus gave did not do much good. The men who were left at the fort did anything but treat the Indians well, and the result was that when Columbus returned, eleven months later, every one of these forty men had been killed. We must not blame the Indians too much for this. The Spaniards would steal everything that they could find and would take the women away from their families, put them into the fort, and treat them as slaves. What do you think we would do if people were to come to our shores and begin doing that sort of thing? Is it likely we would treat them any better than the natives treated these Spaniards?

43. What Columbus Thought of the Islands.—It is interesting to note what Columbus thought of the islands

he had discovered. He began by speaking of the natives as a poor and weak people, but the climate and the trees and the islands themselves pleased him greatly. Every new place he reached he said was finer than any he had seen before. He thought the islands themselves were immensely rich and he believed that great gold mines were to be found somewhere in them. Columbus never knew that Cuba was an island, but thought it a part of the mainland of Asia. It is interesting to note, too, that on this journey Columbus found the potato, and also tobacco and cotton. Any one of these commodities has proved of much greater value than all the gold that Spain ever got from the new world, or ever hoped to get. Columbus left for Europe, however, with the belief that riches were to be found somewhere, mainly in gold and spices. He carried with him samples of strange bushes on which he believed spices grew. These, however, proved to be worthless.

44. Strange Stories.—Columbus and his men heard many strange stories in their journey among these islands. The natives seemed to believe that the Spaniards, who were white, had come from Heaven. The Spaniards themselves encouraged this belief by saying that they were children of Heaven, who had come to seek for gold. They did this, of course, to get the natives to help them and also to make the natives afraid to attack them.

There were stories of men who would kill people and eat them. Men who do that are called cannibals. They heard that there was a tribe of cannibals somewhere to the south and that these cannibals now and then would come to the islands in the north to kill people for food. On the island of Haiti some of the natives showed Columbus

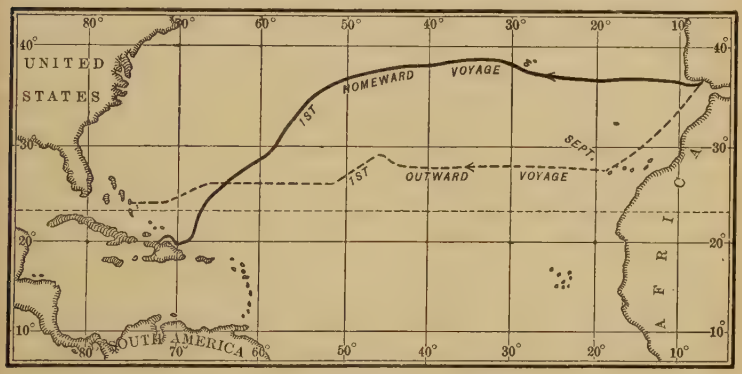
gashes on their legs, which they said were places where the cannibals had started to eat them and had bitten out chunks before they could get away. The Spaniards also heard stories about men with one eye and with faces like dogs; they heard about people with tails, who were supposed to be somewhere to the westward. On November seventeenth, when Columbus turned eastward on the north coast of Cuba, he remarked in his Journal that he would have to go and hunt for gold now, but that some time later he might go farther west and see the people with tails.

45. The Homeward Voyage.—Just two days after Christmas, on December twenty-seventh, Columbus got word that the Pinta was somewhere on the north coast of Haiti and he sent men in a boat to get her captain to bring his ship to Navidad. The Pinta, however, did not return, but Columbus found her about a week later when he was on his journey homeward. Her captain, Pinzon, explained his desertion by saying that he had gotten lost from the rest of the fleet, and he now agreed to go along with Columbus. On January fourth Columbus left the fort at Navidad and sailed eastward along the northern coast of Haiti. The wind and the current kept them from going very fast, and it was not until January sixteenth that they saw the land of Haiti (or Hispaniola, as they called it) for the last time. They then turned northward, as will be seen from the map, until they got about as far north as Spain, and then sailed straight east.

The homeward voyage was very stormy. The two ships, the Nina and the Pinta, were separated and Columbus feared that the Pinta might have gone down with all on board. Columbus was so much afraid that his own

ship would sink that he wrote a story of his voyage and put it into a small barrel or keg and threw it overboard, in the hope that someone might find it in case his ship should be lost. He also put a story of the same kind into another keg and placed it on the deck of the Nina so that it might float off in case she should go down.

After sailing one month they were not exactly certain as to their location. Columbus thought they were some-



MAP OF FIRST HOMEWARD VOYAGE

where close to the Azores, while other members of the crew thought they were somewhere near the coast of Spain. On February eighteenth they sailed into a harbor of a small island, which they found to be one of the Azores. Columbus was right and the others were wrong. The Azores belonged to the Portuguese, and when Columbus sent one-half of his men ashore to attend church they were made prisoners and the Portuguese came out to the ships and tried to take Columbus and the rest of his men. However, Columbus showed them the papers which had

been given him by the King and Queen of Spain and the Portuguese thought then that they had better let him and his men go, inasmuch as it was dangerous to offend the powerful Spanish kingdom. Columbus sailed on through a terrible storm, and on March third the weather drove him into a small port in Portugal. He stayed there a few days and then went on to Palos, the port in southern Spain from which he had sailed. He reached Palos on March fifteenth, about seven months after he had left it. In the meantime, the Pinta had reached a port in northern Spain and from there she proceeded around the coast of Portugal and arrived in Palos the afternoon of the same day that Columbus did.

CHAPTER III

Columbus in Spain and the Second Voyage

46. Reception in Palos.—It was a joyful day for the people of Palos when the ships of Columbus returned. Seven months earlier they had started out into the unknown Atlantic, and there were many who feared that they were lost. During the winter the weather was unusually bad. While Columbus was sailing among the islands of the West Indies in beautiful weather, the coasts of Europe were lashed by terrific storms that raised the sea to unusual heights. On his homeward voyage Columbus ran into these storms and his ships were in great danger.

We can well imagine how the people of Palos visited back and forth during the long winter months that had just passed and talked about the terrible things which were believed to be out in the great ocean. As they were seated around their firesides in the evening, hearing the wind howl, they thought of their own people, members of their own families, away out on the ocean where they believed the storm was just as furious and possibly worse, and it is no wonder that they were worried. We can understand, then, how happy these people were when they saw the ships coming back. And what strange things these travelers brought and what marvelous stories they told! How the people looked with wonder upon the half-naked Indians and the curious birds and the branches of strange trees, and how they listened to the story of the journey and of the new land beyond the great ocean!

There was still some anxiety for the forty men who had

been left at Fort Navidad, but Columbus assured the people that they were all well and no doubt they would be found happy and prosperous when he should return to them. These simple people of the little town of Palos were happy beyond expression. They were proud that the little fleet which made this wonderful voyage had sailed from their town. And indeed they might well be proud of it. The name of the little town of Palos is now known all over the world just because Columbus sailed from there.

MAP OF SPAIN SHOWING PALOS, SEVILLE, AND BARCELONA

Columbus sent a messenger to the Court with the news that he had returned and then went to Seville to await orders. The King and Queen immediately sent word that he should come to them at once to tell his story. They also told him to start making arrangements for another voyage. They were now in a hurry to go on with these voyages because they feared that the Portuguese would send out a fleet and take some of the lands which the Spaniards hoped to get for themselves.

47. Reception at Court.—News of his return spread rapidly as he went on his way from Seville to Barcelona, where the Court was now located. People gathered from all around to see him as he passed through the towns and to look upon the strange people and the wonderful things he had brought. He had with him six of his ten Indians. One had died at sea and three were sick at Palos. As he entered the city of Barcelona he had a procession not

unlike that of a small circus. The Indians, nearly naked and wearing all their ornaments, headed the line; then there were forty parrots carried in cages; there were other strange birds of bright and brilliant feathers; there were branches of trees which were supposed to furnish spices. Next came Columbus himself on horseback, followed by a large number of the nobles of Spain, likewise on horseback. Columbus returned to the Court of Spain like a king coming back from a victorious war. When Columbus was brought into their presence the King and Queen were seated at the end of the room with Prince Juan. As a mark of special respect to Columbus they arose to receive him standing. When he drew near they motioned him to be seated. The Indians and all the strange things that he had brought were in the room, and he pointed to each of them in turn as he told his story. He told of the people he found, and he showed them the six Indians. He told of the wonderful birds he had seen, and he pointed to his collection of parrots. He told of the spices that he had found, or thought he had found, and he pointed to the men carrying branches of strange trees. He told of treasures, and pointed to the ornaments which the Indians wore and to the collection of gold that he had brought, which, though small, was supposed to be but a taste of what was soon to come.

Columbus now lived in Barcelona about six weeks. He was treated as one of the royal family. He was given large and beautiful rooms in which to live, and almost daily he could be seen riding through the streets with the King and the Prince. For once in his life, Columbus seems to have been really happy. People knew him and he smiled as

they greeted him on the street. For six weeks, at least, Columbus was regarded as the really great man of Spain. The news of the great discovery spread rapidly throughout Europe, and Spain was the center of much interest. We hear of banquets given to Columbus, and many interesting stories are told of his life at Court. One of these has been told over and over again and had been told many times before about other people. We will repeat it here, though

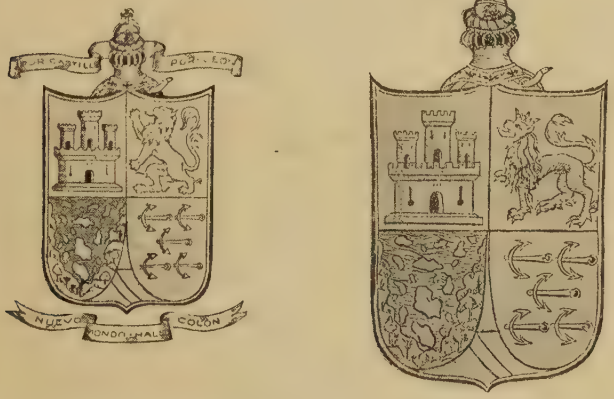
COLUMBUS COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL
Struck after his return from the first voyage

it is not certain that it really happened in the case of Columbus. At a banquet table someone is supposed to have said that it was easy enough to find India—all that one had to do was to sail westward. Columbus then asked a waiter to bring in an egg and requested the guests to try to make it stand on end. They all tried to do so but failed. Then Columbus took the egg, crushed one end a little and thus made it stand up. Then he said, "This is perfectly easy; all one has to do is to crack one end a little."

The King and Queen now gave Columbus considerable money and awarded a coat of arms to him and his family.

A coat of arms is an ornament or badge which kings and queens give to people whom they wish to favor especially. This coat of arms Columbus was supposed to put on his banner, and the members of his family were also supposed to use it in some such way.

48. Preparation for the Second Voyage.—Preparations for the second voyage had been started before Columbus



COLUMBUS'S COAT OF ARMS

The picture to right shows the coat of arms as given to Columbus. The mottoes as shown in picture to left were added later by descendants of Columbus

left Seville and were being made rapidly. Seventeen ships were collected in the port of Seville. Arms and ammunition left over from the Moorish wars were placed on board. Horses and other domestic animals, all sorts of tools, and implements for tilling the ground, garden seeds, large quantities of food and many other things were loaded into the vessels. Three of the vessels were large, of the same type as the Santa Maria, built especially for carrying freight. There were many of the type of the Pinta and

the Nina, built for war, and there were some smaller, light vessels, built to run in shallow water and rivers for the purpose of exploring along the coast.

It is important to notice the kind of people who went on the second voyage. We remember that on the first voyage it was very hard to get men to go, that criminals had to be taken from the jails, and that even then it was with great difficulty that about one hundred men were gotten together. Now it was very different. There were many more wanting to go than could be taken. Columbus says that about two thousand offered their services, whereas he could take only fifteen hundred. Indeed, it had been decided at the outset that there were to be twelve hundred men in the expedition, but there were so many wanting to go that this number was finally increased to fifteen hundred. But few of the men who went were used to hard work; many of them were nobles who had never done a bit of work in their lives and who wanted to go on an exciting trip. Some were soldiers who looked for adventures in the unknown lands to the west. Some hoped to trade with the natives and make themselves wealthy.

There were men in this expedition who afterwards became great sailors. One of these was Ponce de Leon, who later discovered Florida. There was a young man, by name Ojeda, a brave daredevil of great muscular strength, who performed notable feats on this trip and who later commanded expeditions of his own. Diego, the youngest brother of Columbus, came on from Italy and sailed on this journey.

49. Starting on the Second Voyage.—On September twenty-fifth, 1493, about thirteen months after Columbus

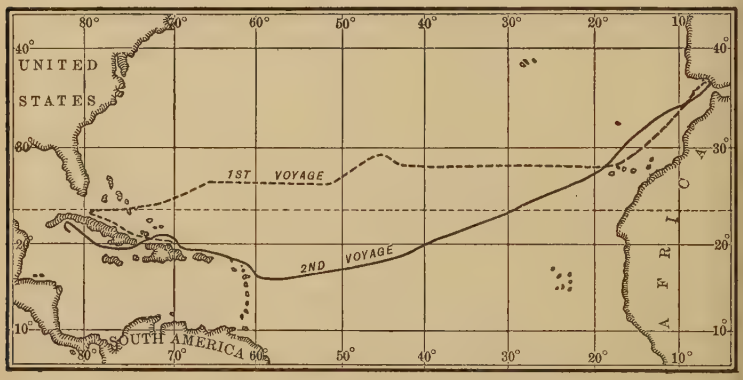
started on his first voyage, the fleet of seventeen ships left the port of Cadiz for the second journey across the ocean. This must have been a wonderful day for Columbus. As he looked around the harbor he saw the fleet of many vessels, of which he was the sole commander. When the crews lifted the anchors and hoisted the sails, music sounded from the shore. There were great crowds watching the departing ships. Cannon were fired and the echoes rolled over the waters. Gaily dressed ships not belonging to the fleet of Columbus followed them out to sea. On the decks of his fleet were his fifteen hundred men—one of the most curious mixture of men that ever went on any voyage. There were sailors; there were nobles and servants, idlers and working men; there were those who went for the fun of it, and others who were ready for anything, be it hard or easy. There were priests who started with the purpose of converting the Indians into Christians. There were men to govern the new provinces in the west, who were already thinking about how to arrange their states. And the master of all this was the weaver's son from Genoa, for thirty years a wanderer on the earth, going from land to land to find the help which he needed to sail west and find Asia.

It was a great day for the people of Cadiz and of all Spain. They believed that these voyages would add to their country great territories and that Spain would become greater and richer than she ever had been before. Though there were to be many disappointments, nevertheless these voyages led to the discovery of all of South America and Central America, and most of these belonged to Spain for about three hundred years and she lost the

last of her possessions, Cuba and Porto Rico, in the year 1898, in her war with the United States.

50. Voyage from Spain to the West Indies.—As on his first voyage, Columbus sailed from Spain to the Canaries. He reached these islands in seven days, and on October fifth anchored at the island of Gomera, the same island from which he sailed on his first voyage.

At Gomera they took on board wood, water, and many



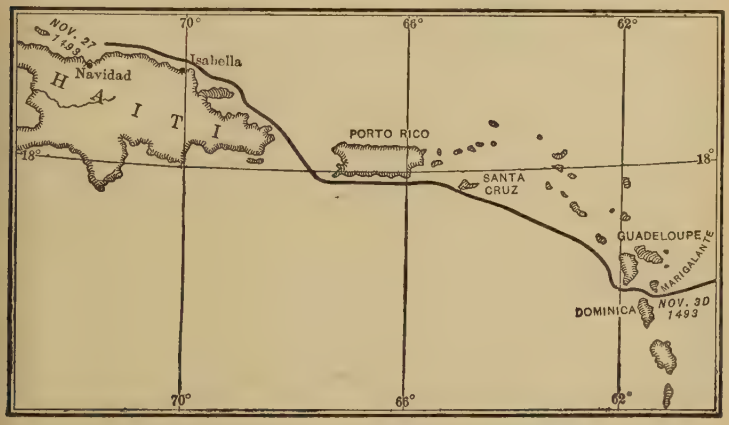
MAP SHOWING COURSE OF SECOND VOYAGE

animals which they expected to need, such as calves, goats, sheep, swine, and fowl. And they also took seeds with which to plant fields, gardens, and orchards. This time the intention was to start a real settlement in the new land, so they took with them all that they thought they needed to do that. They also took on board fruit, such as oranges, lemons, and melons.

On the seventh of October the fleet sailed from Gomera. They now went farther south than on the first voyage. We will remember that the natives had often told Columbus about lands of gold and riches to the south of Haiti,

and Columbus wanted to find these lands on his way out. Of course, he intended to go back to Fort Navidad in Haiti, but he expected to make discoveries on his way there.

The second voyage was not nearly as interesting to Columbus, and is not as interesting to us, as was the first voyage. On the first voyage they did not know just where they were going and they were watching anxiously for



MAP SHOWING SECOND VOYAGE AMONG ISLANDS

every new thing that they saw. On the second voyage they knew just what they were about and sailed right along without paying any attention to little things which they noted with care the first time. This time they ran to the south of the seaweed which they saw so much of on the first voyage.

On Sunday, November third, they saw land. It was very unlike the island which they had seen on the first voyage. Instead of being low and flat, it had great mountains. They called this island Dominica, in honor of the

day on which they first saw it. Finding that they could not land here, they sailed on to another, which they named Marigalante, after the flagship of Columbus.

51. From Marigalante to Fort Navidad.—When they landed on the island of Marigalante they found that the natives had fled. There were beautiful trees, giving off the odors which they thought were the odors of spices. They did not stay to collect spices, however, and the next morning they sailed to another island, which they called Guadeloupe. Here they found a real village, in which there were only a few young children who had been left when the others ran away. Columbus tried to get the natives to come back by giving these children little bells and other trinkets. After a while the Spaniards saw a few women in the roads nearby, but they found no grown-up men.

In another little town which they visited, the houses were built around a square. These houses were made of logs and the roofs were covered with leaves. In them were chairs and other simple pieces of furniture. They found bows and bone-tipped arrows, and they thought that some of these were pointed with human shin bones. There were also fowls something like geese, many parrots, and pineapples, which they had not tasted before. They saw what they supposed were the bones of men and women that had been eaten, and they believed they saw human flesh cooking in pots and hanging from the roofs to dry. Over and over again they tell the story that the people in these islands were cannibals. It is certain that the word "cannibal" is derived from the name "Caribs" which was given to these people. They were first called "Caribs," then "Carabels," and finally the word became "Canni-

bals," which is now used to signify any people that eat human flesh.

The captain of one of the ships with a small party of men went into the woods and got lost. They wandered about the island for nearly a week, without seeing any people except a few women and children. They supposed

OLD PICTURE SHOWING FIGHT WITH CANNIBALS

that all the men had gone off on a war expedition. These Caribs were indeed the people about whom Columbus had heard so many stories on his first voyage. They were a fierce and warlike people who often went to hunt down the more timid people of the islands farther north.

Columbus sailed from Guadeloupe on November tenth and anchored again on November fourteenth, near an island which he called Santa Cruz. Here they had their first fight with the Indians on this journey. The island of

Santa Cruz was inhabited by the same kind of people—the Caribs—that they found on the islands farther south. Columbus wanted to take some of them, and so he ran one of his ships right onto a canoe filled with them, overturned the canoe, and then tried to fish the swimming Caribs out of the water. Caribs on shore started shooting with arrows, and those in the water fought very fiercely. A number of the Spaniards were wounded, and, of course, some of the natives were also wounded or killed. The men from the overturned canoe were either killed or captured and taken on the ship and chained. One of the Spaniards who was wounded in this fight died later and was buried on the north coast of Haiti. These Caribs used arrows with poisoned tips, and it was one of these that killed the Spaniard.

Passing many small islands, they came to the island now called Puerto Rico. Here they saw a village close by the shore, which was laid out neatly. But the natives had fled and they saw none of them. On November twenty-second they sighted a low, flat island, which proved to be Haiti, the island Columbus had left in the middle of January of the same year.

While sailing along the north coast of Haiti they landed at various places, and at one place they found human bodies with whiskers, which made them fearful that they were the bodies of men that had been left at Fort Navidad. They reached the shore outside of Fort Navidad on the evening of November twenty-seventh and anchored their ships. It was dark and too late to go ashore, so they fired a cannon to let the people whom they supposed were at the fort know that they had returned. There was no

answer to this signal, but a little later a native came out in a canoe and finally got on board Columbus's ship. This native told a story, which they had difficulty in understanding, about how all of the people of the fort had been killed and that there was not a single one of the forty men left alive.

52. The Fate of the Men at Fort Navidad.—To understand what happened at Fort Navidad, we now recall the kind of men that Columbus had taken out with him on his first voyage. Many of them were bad men—men who had committed all sorts of crimes in Spain, for which they had been put in prison. They were not the sort of men who would be likely to treat the natives kindly, and they surely did not do so. They were cruel, they stole what they could lay their hands on, and even took the women and kept them prisoners in the fort. We now also recall the King who had been so friendly to Columbus on his first voyage. His name was Guacanagari. While no doubt he had learned to distrust the Spaniards, he had remained in peace with them during the time that Columbus was away.

The people outside of his dominion, however, soon learned to distrust the Spaniards heartily, and they were only looking for a good chance to attack them. This chance came when the Spaniards began to quarrel among themselves. They did not like the man whom Columbus had made governor, and they tried to put another man in his place. They did not succeed in doing this, however, for the larger number were willing to have the old governor go on until Columbus should return. Those who were dissatisfied left the fort and went far into the island,

beyond the dominion of King Guacanagari. Here a young Carib who had come from the other islands farther south heard about the Spaniards fighting among themselves. He got a number of natives together and they killed the few Spaniards who were away out in the island. Then this same Carib got some other little kings to join with him and they marched quietly and hurriedly up to Fort Navidad and attacked it in the middle of the night. The Spaniards were very careless, and did not even have a watch looking out for danger. Apparently all were asleep, and the Indians killed every one of them. Then they burned the village of King Guacanagari and wounded the King himself.

When Columbus returned and the King finally came on board his ship, he would not allow Columbus to hang a chain with a cross around his neck. He did not want any of the religion in which these Spaniards believed. He thought they were brutal and cruel, and he did not like to have any more to do with them than was necessary.

If the Spaniards who were left at Fort Navidad had been the right kind of people, they could surely have gotten along nicely with the natives and there would have been no trouble. They lost their lives because they did what was wrong. Decent people will not kill poor savages and steal what little they have even if they are not strong enough to defend themselves, and in this case the men who acted in this manner received their just punishment.

53. Building the New Town of Isabella.—Columbus now decided that the place where Fort Navidad had been built was not a good place for a colony. It was low, wet, and unhealthy, and there was no stone with which to put

up buildings. So he sent out ships to explore around the islands, trying to find a better location. These ships came back without finding a place that was thought really suitable, and on December seventh, ten days after the fleet had anchored outside of Fort Navidad, they began sailing eastward along the coast of Haiti. They were driven into a harbor by a storm, and this appeared to be a suitable place for their colony. There was a high, rocky point on which they could build a fort. There were two rivers, which they could use to turn the wheels of a mill, and everything here seemed to be fine. They planted garden seeds which came up in five days, and they soon had plenty of onions, radishes, and beets. "Vegetables," they said, "grow more in eight days here than they do in Spain in twenty." They also heard that there were gold mines in the mountains not far away. They called the new town Isabella, after the Queen of Spain.

The work of unloading the seventeen ships now began in good earnest. There were horses and other animals to be put ashore, there were provisions, and ammunition for the guns, and goods of all sorts. They made a plan for the town. There was to be a square in the middle and also a street. They marked places for the church, for a store-house, and for a house for the admiral. The smaller houses were built quickly so that the people might have places in which to live. While some were building houses, others cleared fields and planted orchards. Piers were built to be used in landing goods and animals. There was a great deal of hard work to be done, and many of the men who had come out had not been used to work of this sort and naturally they got tired easily. A strange sickness,

called malaria, crept into the town and soon about one-half of the whole expedition were sick. The town for a while was a great hospital and those who were well had to take care of those who were ill. Columbus himself was sick for several weeks, but as the time went on things got better. The men got well again, the smaller houses were finished, and the ships unloaded and made ready to return to Spain.

All that is now left of the little town of Isabella are the ruins of three stone buildings, the church, the storehouse, and the admiral's house. All else is a wilderness and no one lives there.

The main trouble of Columbus now was to get something valuable to send back to Spain. He had expected that the little colony at Fort Navidad would collect a lot of gold and other riches to be sent back, so that the Spaniards at home would not feel that they were wasting their money on these expeditions.

54. The Search for Gold.—Columbus now made a hurried effort to find a gold mine in order to be able to send some good news to Spain instead of the gold he had hoped to send from Navidad. Ojeda was placed in charge of an expedition of fifteen men to hunt gold, and he started right into the territory of the Carib chief who had murdered the men at Fort Navidad. This chief's name was Caonabo. It is important to remember his name, for we shall hear much about him later. It was certainly a daring thing for these fifteen men to start into this territory, but they were brave, and well armed. The second night they slept on the top of a mountain, and in the morning they saw before them a broad, beautiful valley, which they

called Vega Real, which means "Rich Plains." There were small towns scattered over the valley, and a river wound its peaceful way along its bottom. They went down into this valley and the natives received them kindly. They marched up the mountain on the opposite side and the natives were still friendly. They did not see or hear anything of Chief Caonabo.

Everywhere in the streams they saw glittering particles of what appeared to be gold, and Ojeda picked up one lump of real gold which weighed nine ounces. All this gave rise to the wildest stories about the tremendous amount of gold to be found in the interior parts of the island. One statement was like this:

"The most splendid thing of all is that the rocks on the side of the mountain being struck with a club large quantities of gold broke forth."

It was said that Ojeda was loaded down with the gold that they gathered after thus striking the rock once.

They all said, "If we find these things on the surface of the mountains, what must we not find inside of the mountains!" The natives knew how to separate the gold from the sand, and with their help the Spaniards soon collected quite a bit of it. With this gold, and the promise of more, Columbus felt he could send encouraging reports to Spain.

55. Columbus Writes a Letter.—Columbus now wrote a long letter to the King and Queen of Spain. This letter, with notes written in the margin by the King and Queen, is still in existence and may be read with great interest. The letter was carried by one of the important men who came out with the expedition and who was now returning to Spain. In it Columbus requested the King and Queen

to ask the bearer of the letter about the gold to be found near Isabella, and advised them to return thanks to God for the riches that had already been discovered. The King wrote in the margin, "We now return thanks to God." Columbus then explained about the sickness of his men and the friendliness of the natives. He said the greater part of his men were sick and that the natives rambled about the settlement both day and night. He gave reasons for doing and not doing certain things, and the monarchs wrote in the margin that he had done well. Columbus said that he was building a stone fort for defense and that when this was done he would provide for the gathering of gold. "Exactly as should be done," wrote the monarchs in the margin.

Columbus then asked for provisions and told what they had done in the way of planting. He wrote about the cannibals, and asked that they be made acquainted with the Christian faith and taught the Spanish language. "These suggestions are good," wrote the King and Queen in the margin. Now came the vital point in this letter. Columbus said that cattle were needed in the settlement, and that these could be paid for in Carib slaves. With the light boats which they were building it would be easy to capture them. He said, "They are a wild people, fit for any work, well proportioned, and very intelligent, and who, when they have got rid of their cruel habits to which they have been accustomed, will be better than any other kind of slaves." No more definite proposal to start a slave trade was ever made. As Columbus laid down his pen he asked the King and Queen to praise God, as he himself was then doing.

It is to the credit of the King and Queen that they expressed doubt about this proposal, and we shall see that in the end Isabella went so far as to send back some natives that Columbus had sent to Spain to be sold as slaves.

56. What the Natives Thought of the Spaniards.—The Indians who came and went through the town of Isabella were not really as dull and as simple as Columbus and the other Spaniards may have thought they were. They learned quickly what was the main thing that the white men were after. They soon learned to hold up little bits of gold and say, "Behold! Here is the god of the Christians." Later, travelers who came among these people, and who learned to know them and were willing to tell the truth, said that they heard them say this. The Spaniards had already compelled the natives to help in the search for gold. They had taken some of their number as prisoners to Spain, and had mistreated many others, especially the women. It is no wonder that King Guacanagari did not want to wear the cross, the emblem of the Spanish faith.

A Spaniard historian tells us that some years later a native king of Cuba who heard that the Spaniards were coming over from Haiti tried to protect his people by seeking the favor of their god. Taking a big lump of gold, he called his people together and said: "Behold, this is the god of the white men; let us dance around it and pray to it, so it may keep them from harming us." But the white man's god did not protect the natives. The Spaniards captured this very King and burned him alive. When he was dying in the flames a priest held up a cross and begged him to "become a Christian" so he might go to

Heaven. The half-roasted Indian replied that if there were Christians in Heaven he did not want to go there.

57. Columbus Himself Goes in Search for Gold.— Leaving his brother, Diego, in command at Isabella, Columbus now started at the head of a large expedition for the mountain where Ojeda had found gold. In that expedition there were four hundred soldiers, many work-

MAP OF HAITI SHOWING ISABELLA, VEGA REAL, FORT ST. THOMAS

men and miners, and men to carry provisions. They had military music, the drums were beating constantly, and they made as much of a warlike show as they could in order to impress the natives.

On the way they had to build roads and bridges. They camped on the same mountain where Ojeda had camped, and they looked down upon the same beautiful valley, the Vega Real. Columbus erected a cross on the summit and then went down into the valley, as Ojeda had done. The horses and horsemen astonished the natives beyond description. They had never seen a horse before, and they

thought that the horse and his rider were all one animal. When one of the riders got off they thought that the animal separated itself into two parts. The Spaniards came to the river in the middle of the valley and the men bathed in it, but they found it too deep to wade across. So they built rafts on which the men and goods could be carried, and the horses were led as they swam the river. Then the expedition clambered up the steep mountain where Ojeda had found gold.

On this mountain, at a place a little more than fifty miles from Isabella, they built a fort, which they called St. Thomas. There was a river here which flowed in a sharp curve so that it was on three sides of the fort. For this reason Columbus thought the fort could easily be defended against possible attacks of the natives.

Columbus was now in the highest hopes that a great quantity of gold would be found. He thought he saw the glittering particles in all the streams. The natives had learned to know what the Spaniards wanted, and so they brought bits of gold to the fort and traded them for little jangling bells and other tinsel, which were of no value to the Spaniards but which the natives liked better than the gold.

Fort St. Thomas was now regarded as the mining camp of the expedition. A road was built to Isabella, from which food and other needed articles were brought to the new fort. From Fort St. Thomas expeditions were sent out to get acquainted with the country. The Spaniards planned to explore the whole island so that they might discover the best mines. The whole thing was arranged in a business-like manner for the one purpose of gathering gold.

58. Trouble at Isabella.—Many of the men at Isabella had become dissatisfied. They had to work hard, whereas they had come out expecting to have a lot of fun and no serious work to do. The food was not good, nor was there plenty of it. When the expedition was fitted out in Spain some of the merchants had put in bad food, although good food had been paid for. This is not at all surprising. The same thing has happened many a time even in our day. Men have sold bad food to armies, both in the United States and in England, within the memory of those of us who are not even old at the present time.

The man who kept the accounts of the colony, one named Diaz, now put himself at the head of those who were dissatisfied. He accused Columbus of mismanaging the colony and of having made false promises to the colonists before they left Spain. In a land which Columbus had described as beautiful, rich, and healthy, they were dying from sickness and starvation. Diaz and his followers even made plans to bring charges against Columbus at the Court of Spain. The plots were discovered by Columbus, and Diaz was put in chains and placed aboard a ship to be taken to Spain for trial. The other men were punished in various ways, but on the whole the punishments were light. Columbus did not want to be harsh with them, for by showing that he was lenient he hoped to get all his men to like him so that there would be no further trouble of this sort.

There is no doubt that Columbus had painted the newly discovered country in too rosy colors. He surely said that it was finer in many respects than it really was. Now, these Spaniards, who had not been used to

work or hardship of any sort, said that the islands were worse than they really were. Columbus and Diaz were about equally far from the truth, and it is hard to say which one of them was more at fault in making untrue statements.

When Columbus returned from his trip to Fort St. Thomas he found ripe vegetables in the gardens which they had planted. There is no doubt that if the Spaniards, instead of hunting for gold, had come out to be simple farmers in this new land they would have gotten along very well. More than a hundred years later, people from England settled on the bleak shores of what is now Massachusetts, not for the purpose of finding gold, but to make homes for themselves where they could raise what they needed to live on. These people, living on a stony and poor soil and in a cold climate, got along very much better than the Spaniards who were hunting gold in this fertile and charming island.

Although Columbus succeeded in suppressing the first mutiny his troubles were not ended. Fever broke out again and large numbers were sick. The whole colony was threatened with starvation. Columbus now took things in his own hands and forced the priests and the nobles to work just the same as the common laborers. This they hated to do, for they thought common work degrading. Even when they were in danger of starvation they would remain idle unless compelled to work. It is no wonder that they were dissatisfied and angry. These priests and nobles of Spain, who had never done a stroke of work with their hands in all their lives, thought it something horrible that this man Columbus, who was not even a Spaniard,

but a foreigner—a mere Italian—should now make them work. However, they had to work or starve, and the result was that in the end they all worked.

59. Trouble with the Natives.—At St. Thomas, Columbus left a force of fifty-six men to complete the fort, to explore the country, and to collect gold. He gave the men instructions to treat the natives well, but these instructions were useless. The Spaniards were soon abusing them just as the men at Fort Navidad had done, and the natives became angry and warlike. They began to capture and rob small parties of Spaniards going between Isabella and Fort St. Thomas. The natives were not really dangerous, however, for it was found that a single horseman in armor could defeat a whole band of Indians.

ARMOR USED IN TIME OF COLUMBUS

In one case a Spanish horseman attacked a group of natives and recaptured five Spaniards whom they had taken prisoners. The fact was that the weapons of the Spaniards enabled them to defeat the natives even when they were in very large numbers. This led Columbus to believe that all that was necessary was to take good care and there would be no real danger from their attacks. As soon as he felt that his men could get on without him, he decided to take three small ships and go on an exploring expedition

toward the west. On April twenty-fourth he left Isabella and sailed westward along the coast of Haiti.

60. Sailing Along the South Coast of Cuba.—On his journey westward, along the north coast of Haiti, Columbus stopped at the old Fort Navidad. King Guacanagari did not come out to greet him and Columbus did not stay to learn why but went on to Cuba. When he reached the east end of this island, which he had seen on his first voyage, he sailed along its southern coast. On the first

MAP SHOWING VOYAGE OF EXPLORATION AMONG ISLANDS ON SECOND VOYAGE

day they found natives near the shore. These people had never seen ships like those of Columbus, and they fled in terror. The crews of the ships landed and ate their food. When some of the natives came nearer the shore, Columbus gave them trinkets for the food and treated them well. The story of these ships and of the kindly white men in them was told along the shore ahead of Columbus, and as the ships glided by, the natives came out in their canoes and brought all the fruit that Columbus and his men could use. No doubt, the natives came out not only to trade their fruit, but also to see the wonderful ships. Every place Columbus went he heard the same

story about the great island to the south from which all the gold that the Cubans had was said to come. So, on May third, after having reached what is now the town of Santiago, Cuba, Columbus left the coast of Cuba and sailed straight south.

61. Columbus in Jamaica.—Soon after leaving the coast of Cuba they saw a streak of land on the horizon, but it was two days before they came close to the shore. This land was an island which the natives called Jamaica. Columbus named it San Diego, but its old Indian name has continued until now. As they drew near great numbers of canoes came out to meet them. At first the natives showed signs of fright, but Columbus threw them little gifts and they lost their fears. When the Spaniards began to land, however, the natives attacked them; but a cannon was fired several times and they ran for their lives. Here for the first time we hear the story that the Spaniards let loose a fierce dog on the natives. Later on they used these dogs frequently in their wars with the Indians.

A King now came out to make peace with Columbus, and as the Spaniards sailed along the coast westward there was no more trouble with the natives. They came out in their canoes constantly to trade, and it was here that a young man came on board Columbus's ship and asked if he might be taken to the strange land from which these ships came. Columbus agreed to take him, and asked the crew to treat him kindly since the boy appeared to have courage and other likable qualities. We hear nothing more about him, however, and it is not known what became of him.

Columbus says that the natives of Jamaica were more warlike than any he had seen before, except the Caribs. They also appeared to be more intelligent. They were better sailors, and had very big canoes made from the mahogany trees which grew on this island. There was one canoe, ninety-six feet long and eight feet wide, all made from one log. What a tremendous mahogany log that must have been! The simple utensils and tools which these people had were of the same kind as those found on the other islands, but they were better made.

When Columbus reached the western end of Jamaica he sailed northward, and on May eighteenth was again on the coast of Cuba. He then turned westward and soon reached what is now called Cape Cruz. On going around this cape he saw a broad bay to the north and on the west side of the bay there was a large number of small islands, which he called the Queen's Gardens. Among these islands the passages were so narrow that he often could not turn his ships around and sometimes he had to send boats ahead with ropes to pull them through the narrow channels. From one of these islands natives came up to the ships in a canoe and gave them what fish they wanted. Columbus tells a wonderful story about how these natives caught fish. He says there is a fish in those waters which catches other fish by means of suckers attached to its head. The natives would first catch one of these fish, tie a line to its tail, and then let it out. It would then catch another fish, by means of its suckers, and the fisherman would pull in both fish and take off the one that was caught and let the catcher out again; and so they continued fishing all day!

62. Sailing Along the Coast of Cuba.—We now recall that it was on the north coast of Cuba that Columbus heard about people with tails, and now he heard the same stories again. These people with tails were supposed to live much farther west. They wore long cloaks so that the tails could not be seen. One day when Columbus had to stop to fix one of the ships, a hunter went ashore and came rushing back with the story that he had seen some people with white robes. Other men were sent ashore to hunt for them, for they thought surely here were the people with tails. None were found, however. It is supposed that the excited hunter saw a flock of white cranes in the distance.

MAP SHOWING WHERE COLUMBUS THOUGHT THE COAST OF CUBA WAS

The coast now began to turn southward and Columbus thought that he was sailing along the shore of the Malay Peninsula in eastern Asia. On the map you will see just where Columbus thought he was. The Malay Peninsula was believed to be the richest in spices of all the lands of the East.

We know that at this time Columbus was thinking about sailing around the south coast of Asia and then around Africa to Spain. He also thought that he might sail up the Red Sea and leave his ships, cross overland where the Suez Canal now is, and then get another ship and reach Spain by the way of the Mediterranean. Of course, we know now that Columbus could not have done that, because he was not on the coast of Asia at all; but

if he really had tried to do it he would no doubt have run up against the mainland in Central America and thus found Mexico, which he never did find.

The wooden ships of those days were often attacked by a boring worm, especially in a warm climate, and became leaky. Columbus's ships were now leaking badly

MAP SHOWING COURSE COLUMBUS PROPOSED TO FOLLOW TO GO AROUND THE WORLD

from this cause, and the crews became anxious and wanted to turn back to Isabella. At this point they found that their interpreter, whom they had taken along from Haiti, could no longer understand the people. For these reasons, though much against his will, Columbus was compelled to turn around.

63. Columbus's Men Sign a Paper.—Before Columbus started back he drew up a remarkable paper and compelled his men to sign it. In this paper they swore that they

believed Cuba was a part of Asia and that one could travel all the way from there to Spain by land. It was solemnly stated that if anyone should change his mind on this matter he would be severely punished. If he were an officer he was to be fined a large sum of money, and if an ordinary sailor he was to receive one hundred lashes on his back and have his tongue out. All the eighty people in Columbus's crews swore to this paper. Of course it was all nonsense to sign such a paper, for they could not possibly know that the statements in it were true. They had no means of knowing that one could pass by land from Cuba to Spain. Surely if later they might learn that Cuba was an island, as we now know it is, not all the sworn statements in the world could keep them from changing their minds. Childish and silly as this whole thing now seems to us, Columbus wanted such a paper to present to the Court of Spain. He was anxious above all else to make certain that he had really found Asia, and possibly a little more anxious to have others believe it.

It is interesting to think that if Columbus had sailed westward just a very few days more, the coast would have turned to the northward, and if he had followed it he would have gone around Cuba and he and his men would have changed their minds in spite of the statement they had all sworn to.

64. Returning Eastward.—On the way eastward they found the Isle of Pines, then sailed along the south shore of Jamaica and the south shore of Haiti. They were delayed by storms along the whole eastward journey, but the natives continued to be friendly and to provide the crews with such food as they had. The food was getting

low and the men were limited to one pound of moldy bread each day and a small cup of wine. The wind was constantly from the east, and it took one whole month to pass Jamaica. After going around the eastern end of Haiti they finally reached Isabella on September twenty-ninth.

Columbus had been absent five months on a very troublesome voyage. His crews were tired and worn out and he himself was too sick to stand up when they entered Isabella. On this journey, as we have seen, he explored nearly all of the south coast of Cuba, sailed around the island of Jamaica, and explored the southern coast of Haiti. It seems a pity that he did not continue far enough to reach the western end of Cuba and then turn northward. That would have given Columbus certain new ideas which unfortunately he never came to have.

65. Columbus Meets His Brother Bartholomew.—When Columbus reached Isabella, he found his brother Bartholomew. We now recall that this brother had already done important work in the way of discoveries. He was with the Portuguese when they first sailed around the south end of Africa. He was sent by Columbus to see if the King of England would help in fitting out ships to go across the ocean. When Bartholomew returned to Spain by way of France, he learned that his brother had already found land across the Atlantic and had gone west again on his second voyage. The King of Spain was just then sending out a fleet with supplies for Haiti, and Bartholomew came out with this fleet. Bartholomew was strong, brave, and able—just the sort of man that Columbus needed most to help him. In some ways he was a

better man than his brother. He was a better speaker and writer and he could manage men better, and was not so given to impractical dreaming. Columbus now made

PORTRAIT OF BARTHOLOMEW COLUMBUS

him governor of Haiti, with the title of Adelantado, which means governor of a province.

Bartholomew told how things were going in Spain, that Columbus's family were well and were enjoying themselves at the Court. Columbus had feared that his enemies might have gotten the King and Queen to show his family disfavor, but Bartholomew told him that there was no

serious danger of that. Meeting with his brother and hearing the good news which he had to tell was very important for Columbus, now when he was in bad health and low spirits. It did more to make him well than anything else could possibly have done.

66. Trouble at Isabella While Columbus Was Away.—At Isabella, Columbus found trouble enough for a well man. The expedition which was to explore the country around Fort St. Thomas had not done so, but had abused the natives in many ways so that they had become very unfriendly. The chief, Caonabo, who had destroyed Fort Navidad, now decided to destroy Fort St. Thomas. He gathered an army and tried to surprise the Spaniards. Ojeda, who was in command, was too shrewd and alert to be taken by surprise. He gathered his men into the fort, and Caonabo, who had hoped to surprise them, found the Spaniards ready. The natives did not dare to come within range of the Spanish weapons, and Ojeda was too wary to be drawn into an open fight. Caonabo then tried to starve the Spaniards by placing a guard all about the fort so no one could go out or in. If he had kept this up long enough he no doubt would have succeeded, but little by little the savages became tired of the siege and went away. So Ojeda and his men got out safely. Caonabo now learned of quarrels among the Spaniards at Isabella, and although he had just failed to take Fort St. Thomas, he now decided to try to drive the Spaniards from the island altogether. He felt that this was not entirely a hopeless undertaking, for he had once succeeded in doing away with the entire Spanish colony at Fort Navidad. King Guacanagari, the old friend of Columbus, learned

of the plans of Caonabo, and as soon as Columbus returned from his trip to the west he told him what was going on.

67. The Battle of Vega Real.—The native army was gathering in the valley called Vega Real. The story runs that they numbered one hundred thousand. Columbus had opposed to them about two hundred soldiers, with twenty horsemen. The Spaniards attacked from all sides at once. The natives were in an open space with timber all around, and the Spaniards crawled up close to them through the trees and then began to shoot at them with guns. The natives were bewildered by the shots coming from all sides. Their confusion was increased by the noise of the Spanish drums, which was greater than that of all their warwhoops. When they began to retreat, Ojeda, at the head of the twenty horsemen, rode straight into the crowd and killed a great many of them with spears. At the same time, a number of bloodhounds were let loose. The Indians were soon on the run, making for the hillsides all around. Caonabo and his great army were completely defeated. From now on, the natives were much in fear of the Spaniards and there was no further attempt to drive them from the island.

68. The Capture of Caonabo.—Caonabo, however, escaped, and Ojeda followed him with only ten men. The Spaniards rushed right into Caonabo's camp and the Indian, who liked this brave, reckless man, treated him as his own guest. Ojeda now invited Caonabo to go with him to Isabella to see the town. As Caonabo had wandered about in the woods near Isabella he had heard the ringing of the great bell, and he wanted very much to see it. Ojeda told him that if he would go with him he

would give him the bell. This temptation was too great for the Indian, who said he would go, if he could take with him a great force of armed men. Ojeda agreed to this and they started toward Isabella. They came to a river and Ojeda showed the unsuspecting Indian some handcuffs, which were bright, shiny things, and told him that they had been sent by the King of Spain to be presented to the bravest Indian chief they might find, and that now he wanted to give them to Caonabo. After crossing the river, Ojeda took the Indian chief on the back of his horse and placed the handcuffs on his hands. Then all the Spanish horsemen made a sudden dash through the crowd of Indians, who parted and let them pass. When beyond the reach of the Indians they stopped and tied Caonabo fast on the horse's back. In this way these few Spaniards rode into the camp at Isabella with the Indian chief as their prisoner.

The brave Caonabo hated all of the Spaniards except Ojeda. He particularly hated Columbus, who he thought was not brave enough to do the things which he sent his man Ojeda to do; but he liked Ojeda because of his bravery and his cunning.

69. The First Shipload of Slaves Sent to Spain.— While the natives were gathering under Caonabo, getting ready for the battle of Vega Real, Columbus did one of the things which his friends must always regret. He felt that he could not return to Spain without repaying some of the money which had been expended in fitting out his expeditions. The amount of gold which could be gathered was not nearly enough for this, and so he decided to send some of the natives to Spain and sell them as slaves.

On February twenty-fourth, 1495, the first shiploads of Indians were sent to Spain. Five hundred of them were crowded into small ships to make the journey across the ocean. We must not be too harsh in our judgment of Columbus on account of this, for in his time the enslaving of heathen people was not always thought to be wrong. The Portuguese had taken a great many slaves in Africa and sold them in Europe.

We should remember, however, that the King and the Queen of Spain had not been any too certain that this should be done, and later Queen Isabella decided that slavery was bad and some of the slaves were sent back from Spain to the West Indies.

70. How the Natives Were Forced to Gather Gold.— Columbus now felt that he had taken care of his enemies among the Spaniards and that he had subdued the Indians. So he decided to give all his attention to the gathering of gold. He made a plan for forcing the natives to gather gold, which in the end made slaves of them all. Every person above fourteen years of age was required to bring in a certain amount every three months. The Spaniards made little copper medals and gave one to each native as he brought in the amount required of him. If the Spaniards found a native without the proper number of these copper medals they knew that he had not done his work. The Indians who did not bring in gold were given a certain number of lashes and set to work just like prisoners or slaves. In many parts of the island the natives could not possibly find as much gold as they were required to bring in, and in these cases they were allowed to bring in cotton. Some chiefs offered to bring in grain, but the Spaniards

insisted on either gold or cotton. Even Columbus's old friend King Guacanagari had to bring in his share. Small bodies of armed men were stationed in little forts all over the island. These men continued the customary Spanish abuse of the natives and hunted out those who failed to bring in gold. Under this treatment the character of the Indians changed entirely. Their spirit of joyful independence was lost. They became sad and quiet. They sang sad songs, and many of them went into the mountains, where they starved and died rather than work for the Spaniards. Under this brutal treatment the Indians died rapidly. Columbus was mistaken in his belief that they would make fine slaves.

71. **The Enemies of Columbus in Spain.**—In the meantime, Columbus had made many enemies. Some of the men who went out with him on his first voyage were jealous because they thought they should receive as much credit for the voyage as Columbus himself. Others who went on the second voyage and had returned to Spain hated Columbus because he had not permitted them to steal as much as they wanted to from the natives. Others were honest in their belief that the colony at Isabella was not well managed and that Columbus was cruel to the natives. These enemies, when they got to Spain, went to the Court and told their stories to the King and Queen. Some of the stories were true and some were not. They told how the natives were abused, how Columbus was brutal not only to the natives but also to the Spaniards. They said everything was going wrong in Haiti, that the land which he had described as beautiful and rich was in reality a wretched place and not fit for the homes of white

people. What the enemies of Columbus really wanted to do was to have his power taken away. The result was that the King and Queen sent another expedition to Haiti to look over the whole island and see just what it was like and what was going on. Columbus heard about this trouble at the Court, and so he decided that the best thing for him to do was to go to Spain and see the King and Queen himself. On June eleventh, 1496, his ship entered the harbor of Cadiz in Spain.

72. Columbus in Spain, 1496-1498.—The men who crawled out of the caravels in the harbor of Cadiz were weak from sickness and worn out by a long voyage. The constant westerly winds had kept them near the West Indies for two months and the journey from Isabella to Spain occupied in all three months. As they landed Columbus wore the simple robe of a monk, and his meek bearing was in marked contrast to his splendid return from the first voyage. There was a small fleet in the harbor ready to sail for Isabella, and Columbus sent a letter to his brother Bartholomew, in which he urged him to use every means to make the colony profitable so that some of the money paid in fitting out his expeditions might be repaid.

The King and Queen now had many things to hold their attention. Their son and daughter were both about to be married. There was grave danger of war with France. Columbus wanted to get ships for another expedition to sail in search of lands not yet discovered, but all ships that could be had were needed at home since the French might make an attack at any time. In the spring of 1498 the Queen sent two ships to Isabella with food and other necessary articles.

When the King and Queen finally turned their attention again to the problem of getting ships and crews for another expedition, they found it difficult to secure either. It was especially difficult to get crews. Again prisons were opened and criminals taken, and outlaws still out of prison were pardoned on condition that they would enter the crews of Columbus.

It seems that in spite of the work of Columbus's enemies the King and Queen still remained his friends and believed in his plans, but people in general had lost faith in him. The expense in money and work and human life of his expeditions had been large and the returns in money had been very small. There were only the small collections of gold and a few shiploads of slaves to show for all the outlay. After his first journey Columbus had been a popular hero, greeted with respect by all who saw him. Now he was laughed at and jeered at when he appeared on the streets. The days of his popularity had passed, never to return.

It may be remarked here that in May, 1498, Da Gama, sailing for the Portuguese, reached the real India after going around the south end of Africa. The India reached by Da Gama, while not as rich as the India of the fables told by early travelers, nevertheless gave rise at once to a very profitable trade. Poor as were the West Indies discovered by Columbus, yet nevertheless they gave to Spain much more of lasting value than the Portuguese ever got from their trade with India.

CHAPTER IV

The Third Voyage

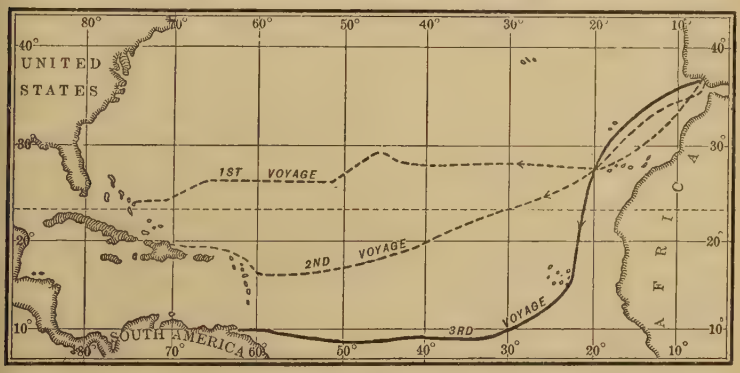
73. The Course Planned for the Third Voyage.—For several reasons Columbus now planned to sail south about as far as the Equator and then straight west across the Atlantic. The natives had constantly told about rich

COLUMBUS IN CHAINS

lands farther south and he wished to find these on his way out. There was also at that time a belief in Europe that the greatest riches were to be found in the warmer climates. In a letter written to Columbus by a well-known jeweler we find the statement that gold and jewels come in greatest abundance from near the Equator, where black races of people live. "Therefore," says this jeweler, "steer south

and find a black race if you would find such riches in abundance." Columbus also expected by going farther south to strike the most southern part of China and possibly sail around it into the Indian Ocean.

74. The Story of the Outward Voyage.—As on the previous voyages, Columbus sailed from Spain to the Island of Gomera. From there he sent three of his six



MAP SHOWING COURSE OF THIRD VOYAGE

ships directly to Haiti with provisions. Then he sailed south with the other three to the Cape Verde Islands. There he found the climate exceedingly hot and bad for the health of himself and his crews. He now began to be troubled with gout, which was to grow worse and remain with him for the rest of his days. When he started westward from the Cape Verde Islands he ran into a calm sea and for a couple of weeks the ships lay nearly still. We now know that there is a belt of calms in the region of the Equator, and it was in this belt that Columbus found himself. To get out of the calms he headed his ships farther

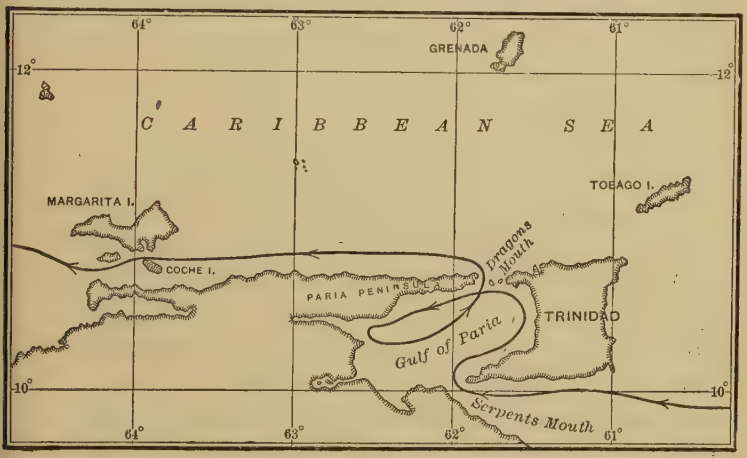
north and then started west for what he thought were the Carib Islands, where he had struck land on his second voyage. Swept along by the ocean current and a steady wind, he crossed the Atlantic rapidly and on July thirty-first land was sighted.

75. The Island of Trinidad.—It was fortunate that they reached land quickly, because their water was nearly gone, their ships were leaky, the crews were discouraged, and many on board were sick. The island which Columbus saw first had three tall peaks and so he called it Trinidad. They landed at the south end of this island, and filled their water casks. The men went ashore mornings and evenings and found the cold breezes most delightful after the very hot weather that they had experienced on their journey. To the south they saw the low country of South America with the many mouths of the great Orinoco River. We know that this river divides up into a number of streams to form a great delta just as it enters the ocean. It is interesting that when Columbus saw the mainland of America for the first time he thought it was an island, whereas he thought Cuba, which is in reality an island, was a part of the mainland.

MAP SHOWING THIRD VOYAGE AMONG ISLANDS

76. The Serpent's Mouth.—We now know that there is a great ocean current going in from the Atlantic along

the northeast coast of South America, that this great current sweeps all the way through the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico and goes out again between Florida and Cuba, and across the Atlantic. This is the stream which in the North Atlantic is known as the Gulf Stream. Columbus, who knew nothing about this, found a great



COLUMBUS ALONG THE COAST OF CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, THIRD VOYAGE

current rushing in between the mainland and the Island of Trinidad. The strait here is narrow and the water flowed like a swift river. This not only surprised him but made him and his crew very uneasy, for they had never seen anything like this before. Another thing which made them uneasy and afraid was, that when the tide went down a great volume of water came flowing into the ocean from the river. This raised the surface of the water, so that the cables which held the anchors became too short and one of them broke during the night. They could

not turn around because it was impossible to sail against the current, and it looked very dangerous to go on. A boat was sent out to examine the passage and came back with the story that the water was really deeper than it looked to be, and so they decided to try it. A favorable wind came up and they headed the small ships right through the boiling water. They came through all right, and on the other side the water was smooth and placid. Columbus named this strait the Serpent's Mouth—a name which it bears to this day.

77. **In the Gulf of Paria.**—They now sailed northward along the west coast of the Trinidad Island and soon found another narrow strait with rushing currents, which looked even worse than the Serpent's Mouth. This they named the Dragon's Mouth. Columbus, who did not know that they were in an enclosed bay, sailed westward along the shore. From the ships they saw a lot of monkeys, but no people. They finally cast anchor near the mouth of a river, and landed. This is probably the first time that white people landed on the continent of America. Columbus was ill at the time and it is not certain that he himself went ashore. He was disappointed to see that the natives were copper colored, like those of Haiti, and not black as he had expected. It was among black people that he hoped to find much gold and many precious stones. Columbus heard the natives call the land Paria, and this is the name which he gave to the land and also to the sea.

The natives were very friendly and received them with hospitality. As they sailed along the coast they found better canoes than they had seen farther north. They

were of the same general type but showed better workmanship. Columbus also thought that the people were more clever and more intelligent than any he had seen before. The women wore strings of pearls hanging about their necks, and the Spaniards were told that these pearls came from oyster shells.

The food that the Spaniards had taken with them on the voyage was now rapidly spoiling because of the warm weather. Even things which they had taken to deliver at Haiti were spoiling. Columbus was feeling worse, his gout was bad, and his eyes had swollen so that he could scarcely see, and he was afraid that he would become really sick, as he was when he returned to Haiti the year before.

78. The Dragon's Mouth.—They now returned to the Dragon's Mouth, but it looked to be a very dangerous place to pass. The waters rushed and tumbled like a river flowing swiftly over rocks. Columbus thought that this might be from other causes than rocks, and as there was really nothing else to do he decided to send the little fleet through. They waited for a favorable wind and then headed right for the middle of the strait. While going through the wind stopped and they had to let the current sweep them along. But everything went all right, and they came out on the other side to peaceful water as they had done when they passed through the Serpent's Mouth.

79. The Coast of Paria.—On August fifteenth they found themselves in the open waters north of Trinidad, and sailed westward along the coast. They found natives in canoes fishing for pearls, and stopped to trade with

them. Columbus remarked that the Spaniards exchanged worthless things for pearls. We have seen that Columbus believed that the land to the south was an island. He

OLD PICTURE SHOWING COLUMBUS TRADING FOR PEARLS

thought a strait separated it from the mainland of Asia, which he supposed lay to the west, and he continued westward along the coast to find this strait. The natives told him that to the west there was a "narrow place" and Columbus thought they meant a narrow strait through

which he might sail. The natives probably referred to the narrow stretch of land connecting North and South America. This neck of land has now been cut by the Panama Canal.

Columbus had curious ideas about the lands he had discovered. He wrote to Ferdinand and Isabella that the mountain in Haiti where gold had been found was the same mountain from which Solomon got his gold and "which now belongs to the King and Queen of Spain." He thought that the Orinoco River came from the Garden of Eden, and that it was the river which one reads about in the Bible as watering that land. For miles around the mouths of the great Orinoco the water is fresh and Columbus said that "the lovely waters from the Garden of Eden sweeten all the sea around." Columbus was full of all the fancies and superstitions of his time.

But Columbus could not remain long on the coast of Paria. His provisions were running low and his health was bad, and he decided to run up to Haiti, where he hoped to rest and replenish his provisions. Doubtless he expected to return to Paria soon to gather pearls, but we shall see that a very different fate awaited him.

80. Founding of Santo Domingo.—Gold had been found in the southwestern part of Haiti before Columbus returned to Spain on his second voyage. Bartholomew, who was left in charge in Haiti, explored the country farther and decided to build a town on the south coast of the island near these new mines. This town was at first named New Isabella, but it soon came to be called Santo Domingo, the name which it still bears. The natives had learned by this time that the only safe thing for them to

do was to serve the Spaniards promptly. When they were requested to bring in food, cotton, and other useful articles to the settlers in this new town, they did so without making any objections.

When Columbus left the coast of Paria to sail for Haiti his ships were carried far to the west by the ocean current, and he finally struck the coast of Haiti much farther west

CATHEDRAL AT SANTO DOMINGO

than he had expected. Fearing it would take a long time to sail eastward against this current, he sent a messenger ashore to let his brother know that he had returned. Bartholomew went to meet him, and it was on board his ship off the south coast of Haiti that Columbus learned about the founding of Santo Domingo and about the many troubles in Haiti during his absence.

81. Relations with the Natives.—Columbus found the relations between the Spaniards and the natives even worse than when he left. Small parties of workmen and

soldiers were now living in the little forts that had been built in every neighborhood. In this way Spanish brutality and mistreatment had reached all the people of the island. Even though the natives had learned that they could not win in a fight against the white men, they at times got so desperate over the wrongs they suffered that they made attacks. These attacks were punished with the utmost severity. Once the natives broke into a Spanish church, destroyed the altar, and took out some of the sacred vessels and buried them. The story was told that where these vessels were buried, trees in the shape of crosses grew up. But this did not satisfy the Spaniards. They put to death all whom they believed had a hand in this robbery, and they even burned some of them alive. This last act of cruelty caused the natives to make one more attempt to overcome their enemies, but, as in other such cases, they were defeated and punished with fresh cruelties.

82. Roldan's Rebellion.—The people who followed Columbus from Spain to Haiti were not such as would be likely to establish a successful colony. Criminals taken from the jails were dangerous when allowed to roam at will among a weak and simple people and were rebellious when kept in check. Priests and nobles were worse than useless in such a settlement when allowed to remain idle, and became morose and dissatisfied when compelled to work, even in the face of starvation. Columbus and his brothers Diego and Bartholomew were hated partly because they were foreigners. The proud Spaniards did not want to be ruled by men of foreign birth. No doubt, too, Columbus had made mistakes. Possibly some had

come to Haiti through what they regarded as his misrepresentations. Many believed that affairs in Haiti were badly managed. They were all certain they were not having as good times and were not getting rich as fast as they had hoped. It is easy to defend Columbus by pointing out that those who came after him were accused as he was and had just as much trouble with the rebellious spirits of their followers. But whether Columbus was at fault or not, there were always many dissatisfied Spaniards who were ready to follow anyone who would rise up against him. The rule of Bartholomew, who was in command while Columbus was absent, was even less agreeable to the Spaniards than that of Columbus himself. Bartholomew was harsher in his manners and more unyielding in his demands.

In the absence of Columbus, a man by the name of Roldan, whom he had made the chief judge on the island, put himself at the head of those who were dissatisfied. Word came from Spain that Columbus was now unpopular at the Court and they thought it safe to start a real rebellion. Bartholomew did not know how many would follow him and how many would follow Roldan in case it came to a real fight, so he did not dare to try to make him prisoner. The arrival of Columbus did not help much. In the end he and his brother came to the belief that it would not be safe to risk a fight with Roldan. Hence Columbus gave Roldan and his rebellious followers everything they wanted. Roldan was placed back in his office as chief judge of the island. Columbus did, however, try to send him back to Spain, but there was great difficulty in getting ships. After waiting awhile

Roldan made new demands, all of which were granted. One of these was that Roldan and his followers should receive certain stretches of land and that the natives should be made to work the land for them. This was really the beginning of the system which will be mentioned in the next section.

Later Columbus wrote a letter to Spain, saying that he had signed his agreements with Roldan because he was compelled to do so and that therefore they should be regarded as of no value. In the same ship which carried this letter there were letters from Roldan and his followers which told a very different story.

The King and the Queen were now very much puzzled to know which party was right, and we shall see a little later how the whole thing came out.

In the meantime, Roldan went on working with Columbus and they together subdued the natives thoroughly and also some rebellious Spaniards. Indeed, a very considerable number of these were hanged, and the colony was under very good control by the spring of 1500.

83. Granting Land to the Spaniards.—The demands of Roldan led to a system of land-holding not unlike that used in Europe in earlier times. Large tracts of land were granted to his chief followers, each of whom was also given a certain number of natives to till the soil. The natives who were thus put to work on the land no longer had to bring gold to Isabella or Santo Domingo. Some native chiefs were even excused from sending in gold if they would furnish so many laborers. In this way the natives soon came to be slaves of those who owned the land. This system oppressed them so badly that in the

end they were all killed off. Their fights with the Spaniards were over. They had been thoroughly defeated. They had lost their courage and made no more struggles against the slavery which the Spaniards were rapidly imposing upon them.

84. Discoveries by Others than Columbus.—It will be remembered that a young Spaniard, by name Ojeda, took an important part in the second voyage of Columbus and that he had much to do with the defeat of the natives in the only really important battle which the Spaniards ever fought with them in Haiti—the battle of Vega Real. It will be remembered, too, that this same Ojeda captured Caonabo, the most warlike of the native chiefs. When the news of Columbus's discovery of the coast of Paria came to Spain in 1499, Ojeda was there. He heard with particular interest the story about the finding of pearls, and so he applied to the treasurer of the Court for permission to visit this coast. This permission was given, although the Court had previously promised Columbus that no one would be allowed to visit any of the lands he might discover except by permission of Columbus himself. It will be seen, therefore, that the Court was now breaking its promise.

In the expedition of Ojeda there was a man by the name of Americus Vespucius. This man should be remembered because his name was finally given to the American continent. There were also many who had gone with Columbus on one or more of his voyages. They reached land east of the Orinoco River, sailed westward by using the charts that Columbus had made, passed through the Serpent's Mouth, then through the Dragon's Mouth, and

sailed westward along the coast of Paria, as Columbus had done. There they found a city built on piles driven into the water and called it Venezuela, after the city of Venice in Italy, which is built in this way. Ojeda then sailed northward to Haiti and finally returned to Spain.

Another Spanish sailor named Nino sailed to the same coast and gathered many pearls. His was the first voyage to the new world that brought back enough treasure to pay the expense of the voyage. By the agreement between the Court and Columbus, he should have had a certain share of these pearls, but he did not receive any of them.

It will be remembered that two brothers by the name of Pinzon went out with Columbus on his first voyage. One of these now got together a fleet of four ships and started to sail west and south, as Columbus had done on his second voyage. He struck the coast of South America in the neighborhood of the present Cape St. Augustine, which is the most easterly point of the continent. Then sailing northward, he discovered the Amazon River, whose volume of water was so great that even when the ships were out of sight of land the water was fresh enough to drink. Pinzon then sailed up to the Gulf by Paria, from there to the northern islands first discovered by Columbus, and then back again to Spain.

A Spaniard by the name of Diego de Lepe sailed along the same course as Pinzon, but went farther south, a good ways below the Cape of St. Augustine. Then, there was another sailor, by the name of La Cosa, who was a good map maker. He went on a voyage to South America in search of pearls, and made the first fairly good map of the lands he visited. This same La Cosa also was with

MAP OF SOUTH AMERICA

Columbus on his second journey when they sailed along the south coast of Cuba, and he was one of the men who signed that curious paper swearing that they believed Cuba to be a part of Asia. It is interesting to note that La Cosa at one time swore to such a statement, while on his map he showed Cuba as an island.

Americus Vespucius and Ojeda described what they saw in a practical way and not in a fanciful and sometimes superstitious way, as Columbus had done, and people were much interested in their descriptions. It was from the description by Americus Vespucius that people began to call the new land America. If Columbus had described the country he saw in a straightforward way instead of dreaming about the Garden of Eden and the mountain from which Solomon got his gold, it might have been called Columbia and our continents would now be known as South Columbia and North Columbia. However, as it is, we find the name Columbia scattered pretty much over all the country. There is the Republic of Colombia in South America. The District of Columbia, where the city of Washington is located, is named after Columbus, and we have cities called Columbus in many states of the Union. All of these places are, of course, named after Christopher Columbus, who, after all, was the real discoverer of land in the west.

85. Public Opinion in Spain.—For some years complaints had reached Spain that Columbus was mismanaging the colony in Haiti. His enemies had been trying to get the King and Queen to believe this, but so far it seemed that they had not succeeded. However, he had many enemies within the Court and was becoming unpopular

with the people outside. When starting on his third journey it was again necessary to fill his crews with criminals from the jails.

Very little of the promised gold had been brought back, but Columbus continued to talk about the great riches which he and others were going to make out of the new lands. He spoke of using part of his own income to take Palestine, and especially Jerusalem, away from the Turks. People did not like to hear a man talk like that when at the same time he failed to pay his sailors their wages. Columbus kept for himself most of the pearls which he got on the coast of Paria, and when he was asked why he did this he said that he wanted to keep the pearls until he could get an equal amount of gold, so as to make a good showing. This explanation did not satisfy the people in general. It looked as if he was more anxious to get rich than to do anything else. Columbus's two sons were now pages of the Queen, and as they passed through the streets the people hooted them. The sick and unpaid sailors wandered through the Court and stood under the palace window calling for their pay.

There was also a good deal of talk about Columbus sending Indians to Spain as slaves. The story was told that he refused to have some natives baptized because then they would be Christians and could not be sold as slaves.

86. The Queen Doubting Columbus.—From the very first the King and Queen had doubted whether it was wise to give Columbus the great powers which they gave him before he started on his first voyage. This doubt on the part of the King had been strengthened by the charges

which were made against Columbus again and again, and now the Queen began to doubt him also. She thought that something must be wrong or there would not be so many complaints against him. True enough, Columbus was a man who had the courage and the wisdom to start west, but, at the same time, was he able to govern a colony well? And if he was not able to govern a colony well, was it right for the King and Queen to keep him as governor, even if he had been promised that he and his sons and his sons' sons should forever govern all the lands that he might discover? Roldan's rebellion brought this question up more clearly than ever. At this time a number of Roldan's friends came to Spain and, of course, they told the Court that Columbus was entirely unfit to govern the colony. Columbus also continued to send home slaves against the wishes of the Queen, and it is stated that she became so angry that he would have been disgraced at once had she not remembered the great services which he had rendered to Spain by discovering the lands beyond the ocean.

There is no doubt that the Spaniards had treated the Indians very badly and brutally, and Columbus was blamed for it all. It is not at all certain that it was just to lay all the blame on Columbus. It is very doubtful whether any man could have succeeded in so controlling those unruly Spaniards that the natives would not have been abused. Certainly none of the men who followed Columbus as governors of the Spanish colonies succeeded in doing this; but his enemies used exactly those arguments with the Queen which they thought would be useful in setting her against him.

At this very time a letter arrived from Columbus requesting that he might be given permission to continue the sending home of slaves for two years more. The Queen answered this letter by saying that she had ordered all the slaves which had been sold in Spain to be sent back to the West Indies. She called the Indians her people, and would not consent to have them sold as slaves.

It is, of course, clear why Columbus was so anxious to sell these slaves. By so doing, not only could he himself get a share of the money for which they were sold, but he hoped also to show a profit for those who provided ships and money for his voyages.

87. A Judge Sent to Haiti.—At the same time that Columbus asked to be permitted to go on selling slaves for two years more, he also asked that a judge be sent out to decide between him and Roldan. The King at once appointed a man by the name of Bobadilla, who had been an officer in the Court, to go to Haiti as judge. The affair was managed very differently from the way Columbus had expected. We cannot now be certain just what orders the King gave Bobadilla. Not all of the orders were put down in writing. He carried one letter from the King, directed to Columbus, which read in part as follows:

"We have directed Francisco Bobadilla, the bearer of this, to tell you for us, of certain things to be mentioned by him. We ask you to give faith and credence to what he says, and to obey him."

The expression, "to obey him," of course meant that Bobadilla was now to have higher power than Columbus. Nevertheless, we must not forget that Bobadilla was to be judge of the trouble between Roldan and Columbus, and was not sent out to find fault with Columbus or do

him harm. We do not know what the King and Queen had told Bobadilla to tell Columbus. That was done by word of mouth, and we shall never know just what it was. It may have been a clever trick on the part of the King and Queen to arrange things this way, so that in case things did not go as intended, they would not be blamed. There is no question, however, but that Bobadilla treated Columbus with much greater brutality than there was any need of. When he came to Santo Domingo, Columbus was not there, but a great many people who hated Columbus were there. The criminals from Spanish jails whom Columbus had brought out were now there to tell stories about him who had tried to keep them from being as vicious against the natives as they liked to be. Such people would not be likely to tell the exact truth nor to come reasonably near it. Bobadilla apparently listened to all they had to say and acted as if he believed them and as if there were no need of gathering further evidence as to just what the facts were. Columbus, who was out in the island away from Santo Domingo, had no chance whatsoever at that time to tell his side of the story.

88. Columbus in Chains and Prison.—The first thing that Bobadilla did after listening to these stories was to read to Diego Columbus his letter from the King, to show that now Columbus would have to obey him. Bobadilla then went to live in Columbus's house. He took everything that he could find in the way of money or valuables, whether it belonged to Columbus or to the Crown. He used the money to pay the debts of Columbus in Santo Domingo, and this, of course, made him popular. Bobadilla was now completely in power. Diego was placed in

chains and put on board one of the ships. As soon as Columbus himself came to Santo Domingo he also was put in chains and placed in a stone tower which was used as a prison. That tower is still standing and visitors are now shown the place where Columbus lay in chains. Bartholomew, the other brother of Columbus, was also imprisoned and placed on a ship. It was the purpose of Bobadilla to keep these men separated so that they could not make any plans among themselves. Columbus himself thought that they were going to kill him. When an officer came to take him out of prison and place him on board a ship to go back to Spain, he asked, "Where are you taking me?" "To embark on the ship," was the answer. Said Columbus, "Is that the truth?" "It is true," replied the officer, who was captain of the ship. Columbus now knew that he would after all see Spain and her King and Queen once more. As soon as the ship left, the captain, who was a humane man, wanted to take the chains off his prisoner, but Columbus would not let him. He said, "No. These chains have been placed on me by Bobadilla, on orders of the King, and they shall not be taken off until the King orders them to be taken off." So Columbus crossed the Atlantic, chained as a murderer might be. They had fine weather and a quick voyage, and reached Spain early in the year 1500.

89. How Columbus was Received in Spain.—Seven years earlier, when Columbus returned from his first voyage, he was greeted and received like a king. It was then a common thing to see him with the King and the Prince riding through the streets of the city. Now he returned a prisoner in chains. His enemies liked this,

but there were many others who believed that he had been greatly wronged, and there was popular feeling in his favor. Pity was awakened on all sides, and this pity extended even to the Court. Just after landing, he wrote a letter to a lady at the Court, who he knew would show it to the Queen. In the very beginning of this letter he wrote: "I have now reached that point where I believe that there is no man so low but who thinks it is right to insult me." By order from the King, the chains were promptly taken off, and Columbus was given money with which to make himself ready to come to the Court. We shall never know whether Bobadilla had done things to Columbus which the King and Queen had not ordered him to do, or whether they now had changed their minds. It is not unlikely that the general feeling in favor of Columbus had affected them.

The meeting of Columbus with the King and Queen was sad and touching. The Queen wept, and Columbus fell on the ground at her feet. Columbus had a very peculiar type of mind. In the letter which we have just mentioned he said that he knew no reason why he should be imprisoned. Now, in talking to the Court, he mentioned all the reasons for his imprisonment which his enemies ever had stated, and he tried to show that he had not been at fault in any of them. Evidently he had forgotten the letter, and so had the King and Queen, and they pitied him. They made promises of money, and said that his power should be restored to him; but Columbus was never to be viceroy of the Indies again.

90. Eighteen Months in Spain.—Columbus was now to spend eighteen months in Spain before he could go on

another voyage. He continued to urge the King and Queen to make him viceroy again and to send him out to Haiti. To this the King said that he now had a great many enemies in Haiti, that the island was in a turmoil and that the wisest thing to do would be to wait until order was restored. This seemed not unreasonable to Columbus and he became more content to wait.

The mistake in making the first agreement with Columbus as sweeping as it was now became more and more clear. Spain was in a hurry to explore as much of the new world as possible because both Portugal and England were sending out expeditions, and the Court did not want to wait for Columbus's consent before sending out other explorers. As we have seen, the agreement had already been broken when Ojeda, La Cosa, Lepe, and Pinzon were sent out on different expeditions. It has been said that the King was anxious to bring Columbus into disgrace, for by so doing he would be able to keep on sending out expeditions when and where he pleased. The one-tenth of all the profits, which was to go to Columbus, also turned out in the long run to be no small affair. It would indeed be surprising if a contract of this sort should not be broken. That one individual and his heirs should have a right forever to one-tenth of all the profits which might be made by trading with all the lands which this one individual might discover, was surely a very dangerous contract to make. While Columbus was in Spain the agreement with him continued to be broken. Ojeda started out to make a settlement in Venezuela. There he had about as much trouble as Columbus had in Haiti. His people quarreled among themselves, abused and insulted the natives,

and finally overpowered Ojeda and sent him a prisoner to Haiti. That was just what had happened to Columbus.

Conditions had changed since Columbus made his first voyage; now there were many sailors who could go across the ocean and explore the coasts of the new world. Columbus was no longer needed; and it is the experience of the world that very seldom do we go on paying tribute to one who is no longer rendering service, no matter how great his services have been in the past.

It may be, too, that the King and Queen were entirely sincere in their argument that Columbus should not be given his rights again until conditions in Haiti had been changed for the better. There are reasons for thinking just that. When Columbus was sent on his fourth voyage he was forbidden to go to Haiti on his way out, but was permitted to go there on his way back. Evidently it was thought that, by the time of his return, conditions would have changed so that there would be no danger in his going there.

On the whole, while in Spain, Columbus lived unnoticed and in poverty. The only thing he could do was to hope for better things to come later, and hoping for better things to come later was not new to Columbus. He had done that for many years before his first voyage.

91. A New Governor for Haiti.—In Haiti things were going as badly as ever. Bobadilla tried to be lenient with the Spaniards. One of his charges against Columbus was that he had handled the settlers too severely. But the settlers whom Columbus had brought out were not the kind of people who could be handled with leniency. As soon as they had little fear of being punished they treated the natives more cruelly than ever. Very soon it became

certain that Bobadilla did not succeed any better than Columbus, if, indeed, he did as well. So it became necessary to send another governor to Haiti to replace Bobadilla. A man by the name of Ovando was selected for this post. Ovando left with a fleet of thirty ships and twenty-five hundred persons. A new type of people was now being sent over. There were on longer merely single men, who were generally adventurers and often criminals. Many of the new settlers were men with wives and families who came to the new world to build homes and make a living. There were, however, entirely too many nobles in this expedition—men who would not work—but, taken all in all, it was made up of a much better type of people than those taken out by Columbus, especially those who came on the first and third voyages.

Of the thirty ships that sailed with Ovando many were large, and Columbus was obliged to look upon an expedition very much larger and more elegant than any that he had taken out. While Ovando was dressed in silks and satins Columbus was wearing the simple robe of a monk. He had neither money nor power, but the King promised that any property he had in Haiti should be returned to him, and he was allowed to select a man to see to it that this promise was carried out. It was now the purpose to send to Haiti something of the style and pomp of an European Court, to see what might come of that.

92. Negro Slavery in Haiti.—Ovando was allowed to take some negroes to Haiti to serve as slaves. While Isabella would not have her subjects, as she called the natives of the West Indies, sold as slaves in Spain, she was willing to have negroes sold as slaves in Haiti. It

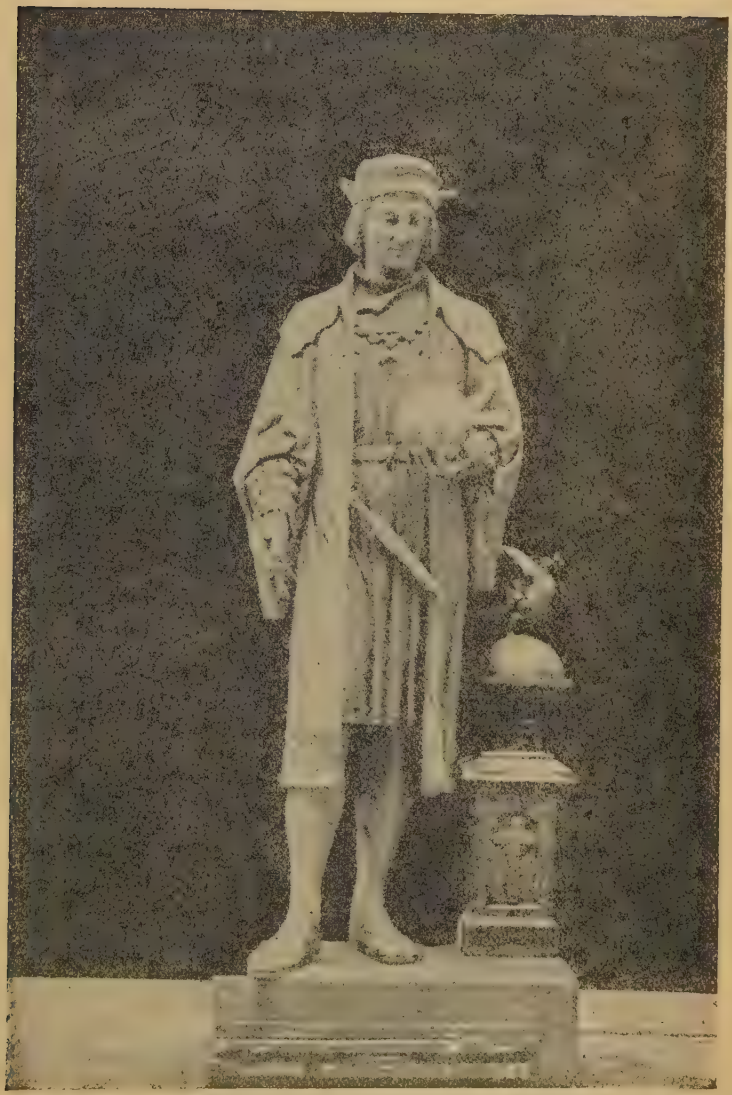
looks as though it was not the idea of slavery which the Queen disliked, but rather the idea that *her* people should be sold as slaves anywhere. It may be also that the Spaniards began to see even this early that the Indians were not fitted for the heaviest work in the mines. The negroes were so much better workers than the Indians that within a few years numbers of them were sent over. As the natives died rapidly under the harsh treatment of the Spaniards negroes took their places, so that finally all the slaves in the islands were of negro blood. It is now a long time since the last Indian in the islands discovered by Columbus passed away.

93. Writings of Columbus While in Spain.—During this stay in Spain, Columbus wrote a most peculiar little book, the manuscript of which has come down to us but all of which has never been printed. He referred to his early arguments to show that the earth was round, that he was led to believe it was round because of certain reasons which he had then stated and by means of which he got people to believe in him and finally to help him get up a small fleet for his first voyage. Now, he said that this was all a mistake; that these were not really the reasons that made him believe the earth was round, but that God had appeared directly to him and had told him all these things, and that he had been appointed directly by God to go west and find Asia. (God seems to have left him in the belief that it was Asia and not America that lay on the west side of the Atlantic.) He said that now there was only one great thing left to do, and that was to take Jerusalem from the Turks. He believed that he had been appointed by God to do this work also. He said he be-

lieved his troubles in the Indies were all due to the devil, because the devil knew that if Columbus succeeded there and got enough wealth, then he would go at the head of another expedition and take Jerusalem from the Turks, and the devil, of course, wanted Jerusalem to be in the hands of the Turks.

We now know, of course, that the arguments about the shape of the earth which Columbus used in his earlier life were entirely sound, and it seems a pity that in his more advanced years he should have given them up. But one cannot be certain whether or not the man was entirely sane. We must remember, too, that in the days of Columbus there was a great deal more talk of the kind we find in this book than there is nowadays. It is hard to be certain of the reasons why Columbus did what he did at various times of his life. It may be he thought that by promising to go at the head of an expedition to take Jerusalem from the Turks, he would get the church on his side, and in those days the church was very powerful, indeed. It is hard to think that a man, as intelligent as Columbus was in some ways, could really believe all that he wrote down during these months of depression and sadness.

At this time he also wrote a very interesting letter to a bank in Genoa, the city of his birth. He made copies of all the papers that had been given him, showing the powers and rights that had been granted him, and these he sent to the bank in Genoa for safe keeping, together with the letter just mentioned. These papers are still kept in Genoa. In this letter he says that one-tenth of the wealth which may come from his possessions should be given to the city of Genoa for the purpose of helping



to buy bread and other necessities for the poor. Surely, Columbus was a remarkable sailor! This man who had lived nearly all his life in the utmost poverty, who could not pay his just debts, and who did not have enough wherewith to clothe himself decently, was proposing to use his wealth for all time to come to provide food to the needy people of his native city.

94. Preparation for the Fourth Voyage.—All this time, however, Columbus had been thinking in a sensible way about geography. He felt sure that Cuba was a part of Asia and that the lands to the south were all islands. The great current which flowed westward both on the south side of Cuba and along the coast of Paria made him feel certain that there must be a strait through to the west; for what could become of all the water flowing westward if it did not flow out through a strait? So he wanted to go on another voyage to find this strait. The King thought it might be well to test out this theory, especially since the Portuguese had now sailed to India by way of the south coast of Africa. If the same land they had found could be reached by going through a strait just west of the lands discovered by Columbus the Spaniards would have a much shorter route than the Portuguese. Possibly, also, he was glad to get rid of Columbus, who while in Spain would never stop seeking to have his rights restored. As we have seen before, he was requested not to go to Haiti on the way out, but might stop there on his return journey. The King and the Queen assured him that later on all his rights would be given back to him. So, with a fleet of four small vessels and about one hundred and fifty men, Columbus started on his fourth voyage.

CHAPTER V

The Fourth Voyage

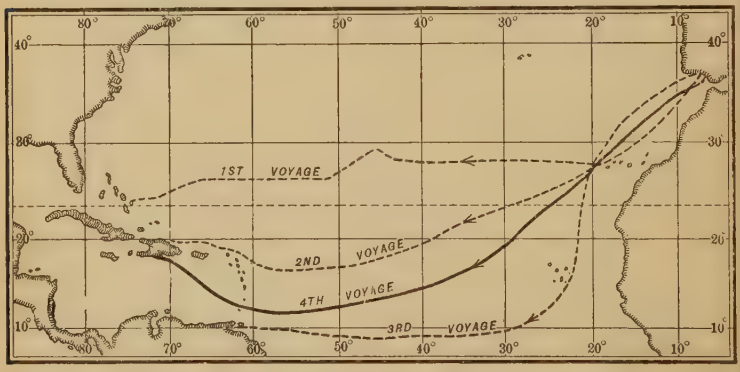
95. The Outward Journey.—When Columbus started on his fourth voyage early in May, 1502, he intended to sail around the world. He expected to pass through the strait which he supposed was somewhere south and west of Cuba, through the Indian Ocean and around the south end of Africa. The arrangements which the King and Queen made seem to show that they did not altogether trust him. They sent along a man by the name of Porras, whose duty it was to keep a complete list of all the pearls, gold, and other valuable articles which Columbus might find. This Porras had a shrewd, cunning little mind. He was a mischief maker by nature and we shall see that he caused Columbus no end of trouble before they came back. They also instructed Columbus that he should not take a single slave.

Columbus was now no longer as strong and vigorous as in his younger days; he had led a hard life, and he was gradually growing weaker. He no doubt felt this himself, and anxiously hoped that this time, at last, he might succeed in doing something really great. As he started out he wrote in his Journal:

"Now my voyage will be made in the name of the Holy Trinity and I hope for success."

There seemed to be in his mind a feeling that, after all, he had not succeeded. But in spite of bodily weakness, approaching old age, and misfortune, his spirit was unbroken.

On his way from Spain to the Canaries, Columbus touched on the coast of Africa to help some Portuguese who were being hard pressed by the Moors; but on reaching the place he found the Moors had gone, and so he continued his voyage westward and reached the island of Martinique, in the West Indies, on June fifteenth. The course of his journey will be seen from the map shown here.



MAP SHOWING COURSE OF FOURTH OUTWARD VOYAGE

96. At Santo Domingo.—We have already stated that the King and Queen refused Columbus permission to stop at Santo Domingo on his way out. This request was made in a very polite and considerate form and reads as follows:

"It is not fit that you should lose so much time; it is much better that you should go another way, though if it should be necessary and God is willing, you may stay there [in Haiti] a little while on your return."

Columbus now decided to disobey this instruction and sail northward along pretty much the same course that he followed in his second voyage. On June twenty-ninth his ships arrived off the port of Santo Domingo, in the Island of Haiti. He gave as his reason that one of his

ships was a bad sailer and that he wanted to try to trade it off for a better one; but it is more likely that his real reason was a desire to learn how his affairs were getting on in the island. He stopped his ships outside the port and sent in a rowboat to ask permission to come in, which the governor, Ovando, refused.

In the harbor there was then lying a small fleet ready to sail for Spain. This fleet had on board more treasure in gold and other articles of value than any fleet that had been sent from Haiti to Spain. On one of these ships was Roldan, whom we will remember as the judge who started a rebellion against Columbus a few years earlier, and there was also Bobadilla, the man who was sent out from Spain to decide between Columbus and Roldan. The story goes that these two men were on board the same ship. In another ship there was a considerable quantity of gold, about four thousand pieces, belonging to Columbus. We are told that Columbus believed a great storm was coming on and that he warned them against the storm. The warning was not heeded and the ships started towards Spain. These ships had scarcely got beyond the eastern end of Haiti when a terrific storm broke loose and the ship which carried Bobadilla and Roldan went down and all on board were drowned. Other ships also went down or were driven back to Santo Domingo. One only of the ships went on to Spain and that, the stories tell us, was the one carrying the gold belonging to Columbus. Columbus had not been permitted to enter the harbor even during the storm, and his ships had to stay outside and weather it as best they could. However, they crept close to the coast and came out of it all right.

97. On the Coast of Honduras.—Columbus now left Haiti and sailed westward. He touched at a small island near Jamaica and then for four days sailed directly west. Finding no land, he began to be doubtful where to go. He

MAP SHOWING COURSE ALONG CENTRAL AMERICA, FOURTH VOYAGE

turned northward and touched the shore of Cuba in the locality of the Queen's Gardens and then southwest again to an island about forty miles north of Honduras. From this place he could see the mountains of what we now know as Central America. Two weeks later, he landed on the north coast of Honduras, at the place shown in the map.

On the coast of Honduras Columbus found a higher type of people than any he had met on his earlier voyages. They were more skillful in making their implements and

WEAPONS USED BY NATIVES OF VERAGUA

their clothing and in building their houses. They had finer canoes than he had seen before. They made the finest of cotton cloth and they knew how to work copper into bells, hatchets, and other things they needed. They had swords, and clubs tipped with a peculiar kind of rock.

With these weapons they later became dangerous enemies of the Spaniards.

One of the canoes which came out to meet them was eight feet wide and very long. It was covered in the middle with a canopy and belonged to a native King who apparently came from the north. These people had many gold ornaments, and when Columbus asked them where they got the gold they pointed to the west. Columbus believed that this rich country was the same India that Da Gama had found a few years earlier and that by going farther south he would come to a strait which he thought would lead him directly into the Indian Ocean and which he supposed the natives had told him about on his third voyage. For this reason he sailed east rather than west, following the coast as shown on the map. If he had gone to the west and north he would have found the rich country of Mexico which in later years gave to Spain great treasures. When Columbus turned east he believed that the coast would soon turn south and lead to a strait. When at last it did turn to the south he named the cape around which he sailed "Gracias a Dios," which means, "Thanks be to God."

We, of course, know that there was no such strait at all as the one he was looking for. The nearest to a strait now is the Panama Canal, which the Americans have constructed across the Isthmus of Panama, along which we shall soon find Columbus sailing. Columbus might have figured out, however, that the great current flowing westward along the coast of Honduras could reasonably be supposed to lead to a strait if there was one. But, instead of going with the current, Columbus sailed against

it. The current along the coast of Honduras was very strong and there was also a wind from the west, and Columbus spent forty days going from the place where he had first landed to the cape mentioned above. In six weeks he traveled a distance of less than two hundred miles. They then sailed along what is now called the Mosquito Coast, and on October seventeenth they landed at a place which they called Veragua. Here they found houses built of stone and mortar and the walls decorated with carvings and pictures. They traded trinkets for gold, and indeed they found more gold here than they had anywhere since they discovered the new world. But Columbus was now very anxious to find the strait, and so he left even the gold in order not to lose time. About October thirtieth they passed the place where the Panama Canal now opens into the Caribbean Sea. On November second they reached a harbor, which they called Porto Bello. They were now short of food. By this time Columbus began to fear he would not find the strait. His ships were badly bored by the worms and had suffered from hard sailing. His men were anxious to return to the gold on the coast of Veragua. So on December fifth they turned around, and, as bad luck would have it, the wind turned around too and again they had to sail against it. A great storm arose from which they suffered for several days until they took refuge in the mouth of a river which they called the Bethlehem River. This river is now called the Veragua. Along this coast there are very heavy rains at certain seasons of the year, and it now started to rain in dead earnest. The Bethlehem River rose suddenly and carried the ships out into the ocean.

98. The Settlement at Veragua.—When Columbus gave up hope of finding the strait he began to gather gold. He sent his brother Bartholomew to hunt for gold mines, and he also sent people up and down the coast, but nowhere could they find as much gold as in Veragua. Here, then, Columbus thought must be the place from which all the gold from the east really came, and he decided to make a settlement here. They took all sorts of necessary things ashore and started to build a small village. Eighty men were to live here and collect gold while Columbus should go to Spain for more supplies. Then the river went down just as suddenly as it had risen, for the dry season had set in, and the ships which were lying in the river could not be gotten out to sea.

While they were trying to get them out of the river, they found that the native King was making plans to kill all the Spaniards who were to be left behind. Bartholomew at once attacked the natives with a number of armed men. This was done so suddenly that the King and his men were made prisoners. By this time Columbus had gotten the ships out of the mouth of the river and Bartholomew sent the King and the other prisoners in a canoe to be taken to the ships lying outside. The prisoners were tied so they could not escape. The King begged to have his hands tied less tightly, because they hurt him, and the Spaniards loosened the rope. This was a trick of the King, for when it got dark he slipped the rope off his hands, jumped out of the canoe, and dived under the surface of the water. The Spaniards thought he had drowned and the rest of the prisoners were taken to the

ships and placed in prison. One night the prisoners broke loose and very nearly escaped. They were caught, however, and put back into prison. By the next morning they had all killed themselves. Columbus now discovered that these were not the same kind of people he had found on the other islands; that they were fierce and determined and very dangerous. He thought, however, that he had taught them a lesson and that he need no longer have great fear of them. So he decided to go ahead with the settlement; but, as had happened so often before, some of the Spaniards who were to be left behind refused to obey their leader and real trouble started. Again the natives tried to attack them, and the danger was all the while growing greater for the Spaniards. For some time the weather was so bad that the men in the ships were unable to visit the settlement. When at last a boat did get through, the captain determined to go on up the river beyond the settlement, though he was warned that there were native warriors on both sides of the river who would likely attack him. He had not gone far when the natives killed all of his party except one.

The situation now looked so dangerous that it was decided to give up the settlement. The food and other things which had been brought ashore for the settlement were taken to the ships on rafts. One ship was so worm-eaten that it was left to lie in the mouth of the Veragua River. Columbus now sailed away from the place, where he had spent about three and a half months. This place is worthy of note, since it was the first spot on the mainland of the new world where people from Europe tried to make a settlement. This, too, is the place from

which the family of Columbus later got its title. His descendants are now called Dukes of Veragua.

For a long time Columbus had thought that he saw visions. While waiting for Bartholomew and his men to come to the ships, he believed he saw more visions, which he described in a long letter to the Queen. He said that a voice came to him and told him to take courage, for he was in the service of God. What God had done, said the voice, for men like Moses and David, that would God now do for him. Curiously enough, this voice also spoke of the name of Columbus as being known throughout the earth. Curiously, also, it spoke of the country where he was as India and not as a new continent. "Remember David," said the voice, "how he was a shepherd and was made king. Remember Abraham, how he was a hundred years old when his first son was born." "And," said the voice, "there is use still for those who are old." It is hard to believe that the man who wrote this was not half mad.

After his terrible experiences with the fierce natives he wrote, "There is not in the world a country whose people are more timid, there is a very good harbor, a beautiful river, and the whole place may easily be put into a state of defense." We cannot now think that all this man said should be fully trusted. He said one thing at one time and exactly the opposite at another time. Surely the memory of Columbus was bad, or he did not at all times tell the truth.

99. From Veragua to Jamaica.—Columbus decided to go to Haiti, as his ships were in such bad condition that it was not safe to try to cross the Atlantic in them. He

did not sail straight for Haiti, however, but went eastward along the coast. When he arrived at Porto Bello he had to abandon another ship because it would no longer stay afloat, and this left him with only two ships. He then continued eastward as far as the Gulf of Darien, and from that point headed his ships north. The reason that Columbus did not go directly from Veragua to Haiti was that he wished to confuse the crew so that none of them would know how to go back to Veragua. He remembered that some who had sailed with him when he discovered the pearl coast of Paria had gone there later to hunt for pearls on their own account. He wished to prevent any of his crew from going back to Veragua to get the gold which he had found there. He even took away the maps that they had, and all descriptions of the course of their journey, so that he would be the only one who would know how to find Veragua again.

MAP SHOWING COURSE OF VOYAGE FROM VERAGUA TO HAITI

Columbus hoped to sail directly from the Gulf of Darien to Haiti, but the current carried him westward and he struck the coast of Cuba near the Queen's Gardens. The crews were now nearly starving, for their provisions had spoiled during their long stay in the very warm country. In Cuba, however, they got fruit and other things to eat. They sailed eastward, but the ships were leaking

so badly that the pumps were kept going all the while, and they used pots and kettles to bail the water out of them. The ships were in such bad condition that it was with the greatest difficulty that they could be made to sail at all. When they approached the west end of Jamaica it was no longer possible to go on and the ships were run up on the beach. They were placed side by side so they could be tied together with ropes. The place where the ships were run ashore has ever since been called Don Christopher's Cove. Here Columbus and his crew stayed one long year.

100. Living One Year on Stranded Ships.—While Columbus remained in Jamaica his most important helper was a daring young Spaniard by the name of Diego Mendez. He had already showed his courage and ability earlier on this journey. When the ships were lying in the river at Veragua, Mendez went alone into the camp of the savages and found out that they were getting ready to attack the Spaniards. It was he who made the plan for attacking them by night, and this we have seen was so successful that the King and his men were taken prisoners. He took part in some of the fiercest fighting in Veragua and was always the first to act whenever there was danger. Mendez was very much like that other young Spaniard, Ojeda, about whom we have heard before. When Columbus found himself stranded on the coast of Jamaica he sent Mendez in command of a party to search for food. As soon as they collected as much food as one man could carry they sent him back to the ships, and the rest of the party went on to collect more food. In this way the men finally had all been sent back and Mendez went on alone. He soon found a native King, with whom he became

friendly, and they got together much food. Natives were sent to carry it back to the ships. Then Mendez got a large canoe on the eastern end of Jamaica and some natives to help him paddle it back to the ships. From this time on food came in plentifully. As soon as they had secured food Columbus began to make plans to get away from the island; but he was to live a whole year on the stranded ships.

101. Mendez Goes to Haiti.—The nearest place where he could get help was Haiti, but between Jamaica and Haiti there is forty miles of open sea. The only means by which they could go were Indian canoes, but these were built to paddle around in quiet waters and were very dangerous on a rough sea. Columbus asked for volunteers to undertake the journey, and Mendez was the only one who offered to go. They got another Spaniard, and six Indians to help paddle the single canoe in which they started. As they passed along the south coast of Jamaica, they were continually threatened by natives along the shore. At last the whole party was captured, but Mendez got away and returned alone to the ships. They decided, however, to try again. Some other Spaniards offered to go along and they took two canoes and enough Indians to paddle them.

Bartholomew with a party of men followed them along the shore to guard against attacks by the natives. When they reached the east end of Jamaica he turned back and the canoes started out over the open ocean. It took them four days to paddle over this forty miles of open water. No one could sleep easily in the open canoes, and the water splashed in and spoiled their food. They could not carry enough drinking water, and one of the In-

dians died of thirst. They finally reached the western coast of Haiti.

102. A Letter of Columbus.—Before Mendez started on this journey Columbus told him that if he were to reach Haiti he should get one or more ships and send them to Jamaica, and that he himself should go on to Spain. He wrote a very curious letter, which he gave Mendez to carry to the Court of Spain. This letter began,

"I send this letter by means of and by the hands of Indians. It will be a miracle if it reaches its destination."

He must, of course, have had in mind the natives whom they got to help paddle the canoes. In this letter he tells about the fourth voyage, and he also goes over again the discouraging days of his early life. He refers to the years in Spain when he was trying to get ships for his first voyage. He talks about the people who then made fun of him; "but now," he says, "everybody, even the tailors, are trying to become discoverers." He speaks about the neglect of him in Spain after he had been sent back in chains, and then goes on: "The twenty years of service through which I have passed with so much toil and danger have profited me nothing and at this very day I do not even have a roof in Spain that I can call my own. If I wish to eat or sleep I have nowhere to go except to a poor hotel and most times I do not have the money with which to pay my bills. It wrings my very heart strings when I think of my son, Diego, whom I have left an orphan in Spain without a house or property which is due him on my account, although I had thought it certain that the King and the Queen as just and faithful Princes would give back to him all of these things with interest.

"I was twenty-eight [thirty-eight] years old when I began to serve you. Now I have not a hair on my head that is not gray, my body is weak, and all that was left to me and my brothers has been taken away and sold, to my great dishonor; even the clothes which I wore."

Then, speaking of his present condition, he says, "Here I am on a far island all alone in my troubles and daily expecting death, with Indians all about me who are full of cruelty. Weep for me, whoever has charity, truth and justice."

Then he goes over once more the old geographical problems which he had talked so much about when he was younger. He repeats that the world is small (we now know that Columbus thought it was much smaller than it really is). He says, "Out of seven parts of it the dry parts occupy six and water occupies only one." "I say," he continued, "the world is not as large as people suppose it is."

Then he talks about gold and Heaven in the same sentence: "Gold is the most precious of all things and he who has gold has all he needs in this world and all the means of getting his soul into Heaven." He talks about the riches of Veragua. "I can simply say that to my mind my people who are now going back to Spain carry the best message that was ever sent to Spain." This was the rambling, curious letter which Columbus gave to Mendez. It shows a tired and discouraged man thinking of his own hard life, full of disappointments and worry about his family.

103. Mutiny of Porras.—After Mendez had left for Haiti new troubles broke out. As usual, some of the men began to mistreat the natives. Columbus was very anxious to keep them friendly so they would

continue to bring food. He therefore punished these unruly Spaniards rather severely and they became angry and rebellious.

We now recall the man Porras who was sent out with Columbus to keep a record of all the valuable things which they might find on the voyage. Porras placed himself at the head of that part of the crew who were ready to join in open rebellion. He said that Columbus had been sent away from Spain and would not be allowed to return. He told the ignorant crews that the King and Queen had forbidden him to come back to Spain and that Mendez had been sent on to try to get them to permit him to do so. The rebels fitted up canoes, stored them with food and started for Haiti. Columbus was sick, as were many of the crews, and these stayed behind along with others who remained loyal. The rebels were good sailors on large ships but did not know how to handle canoes. They had gone a few miles from the east end of Jamaica when a storm came up and they did not dare go on. They found that the canoes were loaded too heavily, and threw the provisions overboard. Then they threw out some of the Indians. These were very good swimmers and they would swim after the canoes and take hold of them. Then the Spaniards chopped off their hands. In this way they disposed of all the natives except those that were absolutely necessary to paddle the canoes. Porras turned back and waited a month for a calm sea and then tried once more to cross over. But another storm arose and they gave up all hope of reaching Haiti.

104. Those Left on the Ships.—Not all the men who stayed with Columbus on the ship were weak and sick.

There were some strong, true men who would not leave him, and they now had all they could do to get food for the sick and to take care of them. During this time of great danger the people on the ships came to understand that they must not quarrel among themselves but must work together like brothers if they were to live at all.

The natives soon grew tired of bringing food. In the beginning they would trade a good deal of food for simple things, such as bells and other shining trinkets, but they soon had enough of these. It was now learned that Porras and his men were roaming over the island and that the natives who had been sending food to Columbus were now compelled to give their food to the rebels. The men on the ships were very near starvation.

105. Columbus Predicts an Eclipse.—It was in the month of February, 1504. Columbus knew from his calendar that there would be an eclipse of the moon on February twenty-ninth of that year, so he decided to make use of that fact to scare the natives into bringing food. He sent out messages to have all the native Kings come to the shore where his ships were on that day. Then he told them that the God of the Spaniards no longer liked the Indians, because they would not bring food to his people; that this God had decided to take away the moon so it would no longer shine for them by night. As the evening came on, the terrified natives began to see a black shadow creep over the face of the moon. This shadow crept farther and farther over the moon and the bright shining part became smaller and smaller. This terrified the natives so much that they began to call upon Columbus, telling him that they would do anything he

wanted them to do, if he only would save the moon for them. Columbus replied that he would go into his little house on the ship and call to the God of the Spaniards to see if he could not get him to give back the moon to the Indians. After staying in the cabin for a while he came out and said that the God of the Spaniards had told him he would give back the moon to the Indians if they would promise to give to Columbus and his men all the food that they needed and to treat them well in every way. This they promised readily, for they were now thoroughly frightened. Soon the moon, which had become entirely black and invisible, began to get light on one side. The light streak grew wider and wider, as we now know it does when an eclipse is going away, and after a time the moon was shining as full and bright as before the eclipse. After this Columbus had no trouble in getting all the food that he needed.

106. Mendez in Haiti.—When Mendez reached Haiti he went to the governor, Ovando, and told him the story of Columbus on the stranded ships. Ovando, however, did not want to help Columbus and he told Mendez that he had no ship large enough to go for that big crew. No Indians could be found to go back with the lone Spaniard who had come over with Mendez, so it was impossible to get word back to Columbus. Finally Ovando decided to send a ship to Jamaica to see if Columbus and his men were still alive, but not to help them. This little ship appeared off the coast of Jamaica just eight months after Columbus's ships had stranded. A boat was sent to the shore with some provisions, but as soon as these had been put on board the ships of Columbus it suddenly rowed

away and went out to the ship lying off the shore. This ship was under the command of one of the worst enemies of Columbus, and he knew very well when he saw the captain that he would not be rescued at this time. Along with the provisions Ovando sent a letter, in which he promised to send a ship large enough to take away Columbus and his whole party as soon as one should come from Spain. The little ship went away and left the shipwrecked crews alone.

107. A Small Battle.—Columbus now sent Porras a copy of the letter from Ovando, with a request that he and his men return to the ships. Porras suspected that the letter might be a trick to get him and his men to place themselves in the hands of Columbus, who might put them in chains and imprison them. So they approached ready for a fight. Bartholomew now gathered together all the men on the ships who were in condition to fight—about fifty in all—and went out to meet them. Porras instructed his men to attack Bartholomew and attempt to kill him. Several of them surrounded him, but he was a good fighter and knocked them down one after another. Finally Bartholomew wounded Porras, took him prisoner with a number of his men, and carried them to the ships. Curiously enough, only two or three of Columbus's men were wounded in this fight, while the other side had a large number wounded and one killed. The followers of Porras now sent a messenger to Columbus, asking him to forgive them and promising that they would obey him and help him in every way if he would take them back. But Columbus hesitated, for he was afraid that after a while they might start another rebellion. Finally they

were allowed to come back, but were separated and put under commanders whom Columbus could trust. Then he gave them little trinkets, which they could trade for food, and let them wander around the island, promising to call them as soon as the ships for which he was waiting should arrive.

108. The Ships of Rescue.—In the spring of 1504 three ships arrived from Spain at Santo Domingo, and Mendez, who was still in Haiti, bought one of them and sent it to rescue Columbus and his crews. About this time Ovando also sent a ship to Jamaica for Columbus. The people of Haiti really forced Ovando to send this ship, for they knew that if Columbus and his men were not rescued they would soon perish. Out of sympathy for him they forced the cruel and brutal Ovando to do what he had refused to do for nearly a year. So one day about noon the stranded crews of Columbus saw two ships coming toward the shore.

After returning to Spain, Columbus said that he had not in his whole life had so joyful a day as the day when these two ships appeared off the coast of Jamaica, for he had never expected to leave that place alive. Later on, a town called Christopher's Cove was founded at the place where Columbus and his followers lived that long year. It was on June twenty-eighth that everything was ready and Columbus left Jamaica for Haiti. We have seen that Mendez pushed his canoe over the open waters from Jamaica to Haiti in four days. Columbus and his two ships now took seven weeks to go from the west end of Jamaica to Santo Domingo. Ill luck seemed to be with them on this journey, and the winds were constantly against them.

109. Enslavement of Natives.—We will now repeat some of the stories about Haiti which were told to Columbus during these seven weeks. It was about four years since Columbus had been taken from Haiti to Spain, and during that time the management of the island had been in the hands of Bobadilla and Ovando. In these years the work of enslaving the natives which had been started by Columbus went on rapidly. It is true that for a while the complaints about the evils of this system had become so great that the King and Queen had ordered it stopped altogether. However, Ovando arranged matters so that he could go on with it. He wrote to the King and Queen that the natives would not do any work at all unless they were compelled to do it, and that some work was necessary to keep up their health. The King and Queen replied that while they did not want the natives treated as slaves, they wanted them to be given as much work as would be good for their health. This gave Ovando what he wanted, because he could easily see to it that in his reports the natives were made to work on account of their health.

The natives were now compelled to work very hard in the mines and on the farms from six to eight months each year. The food given them was poor and there was not nearly enough of it. If they ran away, they were nearly sure to be caught, and when caught were severely punished and set to work again. The paths from the mines to the homes of the natives were strewn with the dead and dying. Starvation and overwork killed them by the hundreds and by the thousands.

Thus, if we blame Columbus for enslaving the natives, we see that others who were sent out to the islands were

no better than he, and many of them were worse. There was one thing which these Spaniards were all after, and that was gold and riches, and to obtain them they would go to any length in their cruelty and brutality.

110. Wars Against the Natives.—In a part of the western end of the island of Haiti, Anacaona, the widow of Caonabo, was now reigning. Rumors came to Santo Domingo that a rebellion was being prepared in her dominion, and so Ovando decided to start out and take care of it early. He took with him three hundred soldiers, and seventy men on horseback. When he came into the dominion of Queen Anacaona she had no idea that the Spaniards were going to attack her people. She treated them as well as she could, gave them the best lodgings, called in some Indian chiefs, and prepared a feast and games in honor of her guests. Ovando, on his part, said he wanted to show the Queen how the Spaniards carried on their fights, so he arranged a mock fight between his men. When they were ready, the Spaniards, on a sign from Ovando, fell upon the poor natives and killed all who could not escape into the woods. They drove a number of native Kings into a house, set fire to it and burned them alive. The Queen was taken prisoner and brought to Santo Domingo and later hanged. The excuse for all this was that Anacaona was supposed to be planning a rebellion against the Spaniards, but the reasons for believing this were not very good. The truth seems to be that Ovando wanted to show the natives what they might expect if they did not obey without any question whatsoever. So he stooped to this mean, low trick of going to the home of the Queen and then betraying her

while she was entertaining him and his followers as her guests.

About this time there were signs that the natives in the east end of Haiti were also getting restless. Fierce Spanish dogs fell upon one of them and killed him. This made the natives so angry that they crept along the coast in canoes and killed what Spaniards they could. This outbreak was of course punished in the brutal manner usual with the Spaniards of those days.

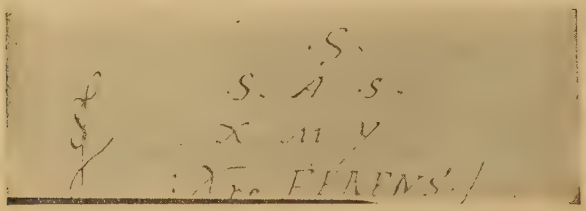
Such were the stories that were told to Columbus on his way from Jamaica to Haiti. Possibly they made him pity the poor natives whose ruin he had begun. But it is just as likely that these stories of brutality and treachery brought him comfort. Others were managing no better than he, and therein, he may have argued, lay the proof that he had not been at fault.

111. From Haiti to Spain.—On September twelfth, 1504, Columbus sailed for Spain from Santo Domingo. Besides the ship which Mendez had bought and sent to Jamaica to rescue him, Columbus obtained another and placed it in command of his brother Bartholomew. Then, with his son and his brother, he started home. They had not gone far when a bad storm came up which broke the mast of one of the ships. Columbus transferred himself and his crew to the other ship and they continued their way toward Spain. The ill luck that had been with Columbus on this voyage stayed with him to the end. They ran into storm after storm, and the journey across the Atlantic took about two months. When he reached Spain, Columbus had been away from that country two and a half years.

CHAPTER VI

The Last Years of Columbus

112. Letters from Columbus to His Son.—Columbus had been in bad health during the whole of his journey, and he was never really well during the rest of his life. When he reached Spain he had to remain in the city of Seville for five months. During this time he wrote a



SIGNATURE AND MONOGRAM OF COLUMBUS

series of letters to his son Diego which are of great value to us, for through them we learn a great deal about his thoughts and feelings. It will be remembered that Diego was a page of the Queen and was constantly at the Court, and so Columbus wrote to him about things which he hoped Diego might tell the Queen. Columbus also hoped to get some of his friends to help him at the Court.

Shortly after he landed in Spain he asked Mendez to help him by talking with the King. He writes that Ovando had kept him from getting his share of the gold found in Haiti. "If the King and Queen would have Ovando keep an account of all the riches which have been found, they would gain just as much as I would." He suspects that

Porras, the man who rebelled at Jamaica, had influenced the King and Queen against him. He writes: "Recall through all this my own sickness and the pay that is due me for my services." He also hopes that the King and Queen would see to it that his sailors are paid. He says: "They are poor and have been gone three years. They bring home good news from the gold fields of Veragua." One week later he complains about his illness. He sends his love to Mendez and hopes that he will have influence with the Court to overcome that of Porras.

Two days before this last letter was written, that is on November twenty-sixth, Queen Isabella died. She had been the best friend that Columbus had at the Court. The King had been less willing to help him, and no doubt had always been sorry that they promised him such great powers as they did before he sailed on his first voyage. During the absence of Columbus on his last voyage the Queen had shown her interest in him by making his son one of her bodyguards, and she had naturalized his brother Diego so that he might be promoted to higher offices in the church.

Columbus, indeed, was to see the Court once more, but his rights were never to be given him and he was to the day of his death to receive no encouragement whatsoever from the King.

On December first he writes to his son, blaming him for not writing: "I have no pleasure now but in a letter from you." Again he complains about his sickness and his want of money. He tells Diego to stick close to his younger brother. "Ten brothers would not be too many for you; in good fortune as in bad fortune I have never

found better friends than my brothers." He explains that he cannot write to his friends because he had to write by night, since by day his hands are weak and painful.

Two days later he writes: "Everybody except myself is receiving letters." Then he speaks about the Queen, of whose death he has heard. "One must believe she is now clothed with a sainted glory, no longer regretting the bitterness and weariness of this life." He mentions the King, saying: "He deserved all our sympathy." Again he goes back to his own plans. He says things are going badly in Haiti and that the right person could restore order there in three months. "All of which I can do in the King's service and any one else *not having my personal interest could not do it so well.*" He says he had written a letter to the King about this but had received no reply.

On December twenty-ninth he writes again, complaining that he had received no news. He again speaks of his sailors, who had not been paid. "They are poor," he says. "They are going to the Court to press their claims. Aid them in it."

By reading the letters which he wrote during these long months in Seville we can see what Columbus was thinking most about. He was all the while trying to bring pressure to bear upon the King to have his rights in the West Indies given back to him. He believed that he should now be treated as one of the greatest men of the times. Instead, he was left alone and unnoticed in the port of Seville. He did not even receive letters, he was ill, and in as pitiful a condition as he well could be.

113. Earlier Letter to Bank of Genoa.—We have already stated that before his fourth voyage Columbus

wrote a letter to a bank in his native city of Genoa, saying that he would have a tenth part of the income from his

STATUE OF COLUMBUS IN GENOA

property set aside for the purpose of helping to buy bread and other necessities of life for the working people of that city. That letter reached the bank in Genoa after a long time, and the answer did not reach Spain for an equally

long time. Now Columbus thought the bank was not even decent enough to answer his letter. This made him bitter and dissatisfied. The truth was that the bank had answered the letter promptly and that much notice was taken of it in Genoa, but the news of this never reached Columbus. Such things helped to make his last years more bitter.

114. Americus Vespucius.—During the last months at Seville, Columbus wrote an interesting letter about Americus Vespucius, after whom the continent of America was finally named. Vespucius had sailed along the north coast of South America on two different voyages. On his return from the second of these voyages he wrote a clear and simple story about it which came to be widely read, while the stories of Columbus about his voyages along the same coast were not generally known. Hence the land came to be called America, after Americus Vespucius. Surely Columbus had no idea of this when he wrote a very kindly letter about Vespucius to his son. Very naturally, the continent of America might have been called Columbia, and probably would have been so called if Columbus had written a story of his voyage as simple and clear as that of Vespucius.

The letter about Vespucius, written to his son Diego and dated February fifth, 1505, runs in part as follows: "Within the past few days I have talked with Americus Vespucius, who will bear this letter to you. He has been called to the Court about matters of navigation. He has always appeared to be friendly to me. Fortune has not always favored him, and in this he is not different from many others. His undertakings have not always been as

successful as he would wish. He left me with the kindliest purposes toward me and will do anything for me which is in his power. I hardly knew what to tell him would be helpful for him to do for me, because I did not know why he had been called to the Court. Find out what he can do, and he will do it. The whole thing can be so managed that he will not be suspected of helping me. I have told him all that I could tell him as to my own affairs, both what I have done and what pay I have had. Show this letter to my brother Bartholomew so that he may help Vespucius to be of service to us."

STATUE OF COLUMBUS AT SANTO DOMINGO

115. Columbus Again at Court.—Columbus set out from Seville for the Court on May fifth, 1505. We do not know just when he reached the Court, but we do know that the King listened to him patiently but would make no

promises. Finally an old friend of Columbus, now one of the Bishops in Spain, was appointed as a judge to decide between Columbus and the Court. Columbus would not give up a single one of the rights and powers which he had received from the King and Queen before he sailed in 1492, and these rights and powers the King would not give back to him. It looked as though the King believed that Columbus was not fit to govern the colonies in the west. The King was willing to give Columbus large properties in Spain, providing he would give up the rights under the old promises, but this Columbus would not do. This was the same man who before he made his first voyage insisted so hard on what he wanted that he left the Court of Spain and started for France!

MAP OF SPAIN SHOWING VALLADOLID

Diego Mendez, about whom we have read a good deal in this story, remained a true friend of Columbus until the end. He did all he could for Columbus at the Court and elsewhere. Columbus now remained about the Court, following it from city to city, for about a year, but nothing was done for him.

116. The End.—In May, 1506, in the city of Valladolid, he began to feel that his end was near. On May nineteenth he signed a will which he had written in his own hand about a year before. In this will be made his son Diego his heir both to his property and to his title of Admiral of the Indies. If Diego should die without

children, his property should go to his other son, Ferdinand; and if Ferdinand should die without children, then the brother of Columbus, Bartholomew, should be his heir. By "heir" here is meant the male heir. In default of male heirs, then the title and rights should go to female

HOUSE WHERE COLUMBUS DIED

heirs, and in the same order of succession. He requested all his descendants to be loyal to the King of Spain. Upon the head of the house he imposed the duty of helping all those of the family who might be in poor circumstances. One of his house should be appointed to live always at the city of Genoa to maintain the dignity of the family there. When his estate should be settled he provided that a cathedral should be erected in Haiti, in the Vega Real, which we remember as the valley near the settlement of Isabella. There were many other provisions in this will which we need not repeat here. He closed it by saying

that all of these bequests could be made only when his rights are acknowledged. "Hitherto I neither have had nor have I now any positive income."

A copy of this will was made in 1524 by his son Diego and is now in existence. It is kept among the family papers in the hands of the Duke of Veragua.

On the next day, May twentieth, in the city of Valladolid, Columbus died. He died at house number seven, on a street called Calle de Colon (Street of Columbus), and this house is still shown to travelers.

117. Columbus Died Unnoticed.—It is surprising almost beyond belief how little notice the world took of the death of Columbus. The historian, Peter Martyr, who frequently mentioned Columbus, at this very time wrote five long letters from the city of Valladolid which have come down to us, but in them he did not say one word about the sickness or death of Columbus. Books written two or three years later about his voyages did not mention that he was dead. The man who in 1493 had been received like a king at the Court of Spain was now so forgotten that not even his death was mourned. No more attention was paid to his burial than would be paid to that of any other poor person whose body is carried to its last resting place, unnoticed by all except the close personal friends and the near relatives. So died one of the most remarkable of all men—one to whom fame has later given one of the highest places among the very great.

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